

Hafa Adai!

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Illegal workers claim 'attempted coercion'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Having spent roughly six months on Saipan, the remaining 22 Chinese construction workers illegally hired to construct a casino resort in Garapan claims that there is "attempted coercion" into accepting compensation offers and going back home to China by the very casino they were previously working on.

With 16 Chinese workers reportedly accepting the offer of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, the remaining 22 workers were reportedly not happy with the offers made

to them, which they claim were between \$1,000 and \$9,000 per person.

Last Sunday, 10 of 22 workers protested in front of the casino at around 3pm in the afternoon.

According to a statement released from the workers that was translated, Oct. 1 is national day in China, a holiday that is celebrated annually.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ten illegal Chinese workers protest in front of the Imperial Pacific Resort casino in Garapan last Sunday at 3pm.

At least 50 killed as gunman opens fire at Las Vegas concert

By SALLY HO and
REGINA GARCIA CANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A gunman perched high on the 32nd floor of a Las Vegas Strip casino unleashed a shower of bullets down on an outdoor country music festival below, killing at least 50 people and wounding more than 200 as tens of thousands of frantic concert-goers

screamed and ran for their lives, officials said Monday. It was the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Country music star Jason Aldean was performing Sunday night at the end of the three-day Route 91 Harvest Festival when the gunman opened fire across the street from inside the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino. SWAT teams quickly

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AP

A police officer takes cover behind a police vehicle during a shooting near the Mandalay Bay resort and casino on the Las Vegas Strip, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, in Las Vegas.

Nurses finally get salary increase

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Effective last Oct. 1, nurses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota received above-market salary increases, which is now similar to what Guam is paying their nurses.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña said the nurses' salary in-

crease is part of CHCC's workforce response and hopefully will help them retain their nursing staff, instead of losing them to the U.S. territory.



Muña

"This salary increase will help us in the recruitment and retaining employees in the hospital. The increase will be able

to convince people to come our way

in the hospital and not Guam or anywhere else. That is why this is important," she said.

"The salary increase is a plan to address the issues of the CW visa workers and the staff shortage. We are also working with the Northern Marianas College to identify how to make nursing graduates stay and start working for us," she added.

According to Muña, CNMI nurses are not getting enough salary or not as competitive as Guam.

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BUSINESS

President Donald Trump's top advisers said Sunday his proposed tax plan would not cut taxes disproportionately for the rich.

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Catalonia's regional government declared a landslide win for the "yes" side in a disputed referendum on independence from Spain.

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LIFE & STYLE

Officials at a remote Nevada prison where O.J. Simpson was set free early Sunday after nine years for armed robbery.

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Local

IN TRIAL OF 5 DEFENDANTS IN ALLEGED CW-1 SCAM

Prosecution calls Department of State special agent

The prosecution called yesterday a U.S. Department of State special agent as its first witness at the start of the jury trial in federal court of five defendants in the alleged CW-1 scam case.

Special agent Lance Bossard was testifying about the process at the consulate in reviewing U.S. visa petitions.

During cross-examination by defense counsel Robert Torres, the special agent admitted he was not part of the investigation in this case.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom at 4pm, Bossard was still on the witness stand.

On trial are Muksedur Rahman, Md. Rafiqul Islam, Shahinur Akter, David Trung Quoc Phan, and Analyn Nunez.

The sixth defendant, Zeaur Rahman Dalu, had already pleaded guilty.

The second superseding indictment charged Rahman with two counts of mail fraud, and two counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, while Islam was charged with one

count of mail fraud, and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting. The second superseding indictment also charged Akter with one count of mail fraud, and two counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, while Phan was charged with two counts of mail fraud, three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, and fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

The second superseding indictment charged Nunez with one count of mail fraud, and one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

At the U.S. government's opening statements, assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto made a power point presentation about the defendants' alleged involvement in the scheme.

Benedetto said the integral to the scheme to defraud was the collection of large amounts of money—roughly between \$15,000 and \$20,000—from each of the 12 named Bangladeshi victims in this case.

Torres, counsel for Rahman,

said the evidence will show that Rahman is not guilty of all charges.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Islam, said his client is not guilty as the U.S. government's evidence relied on lying witnesses.

Attorney Colin Thompson, counsel for Akter, said his client was dragged in this case because she married co-defendant Rahman.

"She's here because of her association," Thompson said, citing lack of evidence to support charges against Akter.

Attorney Steven Pixley said his client, Phan, is a victim in this case.

Pixley said when the Bangladeshi workers involved in this case expired their CW-1 permits, they came to Phan and begged him to help them out.

Pixley said the workers lied about their qualifications so they don't have clean hands.

Pixley said Phan had no motive to commit a crime.

Attorney Janet King said the Bangladeshi workers lied

to Phan and investigators about their job qualifications.

King said her client, Nunez, is Phan's fiancée.

King said the Bangladeshis begged to Phan to help them.

King said although Phan has a big heart he helped them, but

his action does not rise to the level of a scheme as the U.S. government alleged as the motivation. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

NMTI certifies over 80 students



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Northern Marianas Trades Institute teachers, staff, and government dignitaries are seated on the stage of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center during the NMTI certification ceremony last Friday.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute held its first graduation of the year and certified over 80 individuals.

Last Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center, certificates of completion were awarded to students who completed the trade institute's GED course, the auto mechanics course, the culinary arts course, and tourism course.

NMTI CEO Agnes McPhetres said that now that the students have successfully completed their respective courses, they

will be entered into the local workforce with help from the trades institute.

The graduation is significant because according to McPhetres, this is the first graduation that certified students in the GED course. McPhetres said that the course was intended for students who were not able to achieve a diploma in a regular high school.

During the graduation, Rep. Angel D. Demapan (R-Saipan) was chosen to render the keynote speech.

Demapan's speech focused on encouraging students to stay on the path to

success and to prepare each individual for the life after they have achieved their certifications and have entered the workforce.

The key point that Demapan's speech relayed to the graduates was to take action, to nurture, to practice grit, omit positive energy, and continue to love the journey to success.

Demapan said now more than ever, the newly certified students should further practice the five key points he had mentioned.

A total of 83 students were certified during the ceremony and in absentia.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The graduating students stand for the certification part of the ceremony during the Northern Marianas Trades Institute certification ceremony last Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

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Dynasty owner's lawsuit against USCIS, officials dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Citing the federal court's lack of jurisdiction, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed on Sunday the lawsuit filed by the owner of the now-defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino against the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security acting Secretary Elaine Duke, and USCIS acting director James McCament over the denial of its petitions for CW-1 extension and transfer for its foreign workers.

In a 14-page ruling, Manglona said because the period in which plaintiff Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. petitioned for CW-1 permits for beneficiaries has expired, the court cannot provide a remedy for the alleged injury of workforce deprivation, HKE therefore lacks standing.

In dismissing the case with prejudice, Manglona said because no amendment could cure the jurisdictional defect, allowing HKE to amend the lawsuit would be futile.

The judge directed the court's clerk to close the case and enter judgment in favor of defendants USCIS, Duke, and McCament.

As official-capacity defendants, Duke and McCament have been automatically substituted for the original defendants—former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson and former USCIS director Leon Rodriguez, respectively.

Defendants USCIS, Duke, and McCament, through counsel, asserted that the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction because HKE does not have standing to sue.

Manglona said to establish standing, plaintiffs must show that they have suffered an injury in fact, a sufficient "causal connection between the injury and the conduct complained of," and a likelihood that the injury will be redressed by a favorable decision.

Defendants argued that HKE's allege injuries are not redressible because the one-year time period that the CW-1 petitions covered has already expired.

HKE has never reapplied for CW-1 permits for these workers or petitioned to extend them.

Therefore, according to defendants, HKE has not carried its burden to show that a favorable judgment would redress an ongoing injury or a threat of an imminent future injury.

HKE responded that USCIS' action injured it in two ways, by sullyng its reputation and by depriving it of much of its workforce, and that both these injuries are redressible by favorable judicial action.

Manglona said HKE's claims as to damage because of the denials of their petitions are moot because the time period to which the petitions applied expired long ago.

Manglona said HKE asserts that, "the decisions designating HKE's hotel and casino operation as an illegitimate business have not expired and have not been retracted by USCIS."

Manglona said the issue at this stage of the analysis, however, is not whether the decisions have been vacated or "retracted" but whether the benefits period has expired.

"It has," the judge pointed out.

Manglona said the determination that HKE was not a legitimate business is limited to the individual case and does

not carry over to future petitions HKE may file.

Manglona said the alleged reputational harm to HKE is truly a "byproduct" and not a direct result of USCIS action.

The judge said USCIS did not reach out on its own and declare HKE an illegitimate business.

Rather, she said, it followed regulations to determine whether HKE was an eligible employer engaged in legiti-

mate business.

HKE has blamed USCIS' stigmatizing the company by designating it as an "illegitimate business" to the deprivation of its foreign workforce that led to the eventual closure of Tinian Dynasty.

HKE counsel George Anthony Long asserted that the stigma prejudiced HKE by severely interfering with the company's ability to operate its hotel and casino.



Manglona

In defendants' reply to HKE's opposition to the motion to dismiss, U.S. Department of Justice Office of Immigration Litigation trial attorney Heather Sokolower denied that USCIS designate HKE "as an illegitimate business" or ever refer to HKE as an "illegitimate business."

Sokolower said HKE mischaracterizes the agency actions at issue in this case.

According to HKE's lawsuit, the final USCIS Administrative Appeals Office's adverse agency decision affirming that

the company is not engaged in a legitimate business for CW purposes affects more than three quarters of Tinian Dynasty's employees.

HKE claimed it has harmed by the agency decision as it materially affects its ability to maintain and continue its business operations. Tinian Dynasty used to employ about 500 foreign contract workers.

Defendants then moved to dismiss the lawsuit for lack of standing and failure to state a claim.

Call for nominations 2017 Humanities Awards

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is soliciting nominations for the 2017 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories:

■ Research and Publication in the Humanities;

■ Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;

■ Preservation of CNMI History;

■ Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom

and non-classroom settings).

A fifth category, Lifetime Achievement, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

Nomination form and instructions may be picked up at the council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai or can be downloaded as the council's website.

Nominations are due no later than 4:30pm on Friday, Oct. 13.

Awards will be presented during the Governor's Humanities Awards in late October at a time, date, and venue TBA.

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

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Torres signs retroactive payment bill to law

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Friday signed a bill that addresses the long-standing debt owed to government employees after the House of Representatives recalled a previous version of the bill early September 2017.

Now known as Public Law 20-16, Torres signed into law a bill that seeks to retroactively pay government employees whose salaries got stuck on Step 12, despite receiving promotions during the financial austerity measures back

in the early 2000s.

"With the economy growing and new businesses coming in, this allows us to pay for obligations such as this among others," he said, citing the Commonwealth government's obligation to pay a minimal annual amount to the retirement fund.

"If our economy has not grown this much, there is no way we would be able to meet this obligation," said Torres.

Torres said last Friday that he has already contacted Department of Finance Secretary Larissa Larson and that the amounts would be

worked on this week.

"If your name is on the list, [please be] one more week patient," said Torres, assuring that the "funds are there".

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), author of the bill and chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, noted that PL 20-16 was a "continuation of PL 19-75," a law that appropriated over \$40 million of supplemental funding to various government agencies. PL 19-75, authored by former representative Antonio Sablan, also addressed government employees who got stuck in Step 12, however the

Office of Personnel Management discovered that there were many more who were not included in the list.

OPM added a total of 337 employees since the passage of PL 19-75.

"There were some folks that were not detected in the screening process, so OPM came back and tried to ... make the list complete," said Torres, adding that anyone who believes that they should be on the list should contact OPM for review.

"The whole idea here is to do a retroactive payment to employees stuck in Step 12

back in the day," he said.

According to Torres, the 337 employees PL 20-16 addressed is the "last batch" of employees whose salaries were stuck in Step 12.

Vice speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) introduced

House Bill 20-120, a bill that seeks to address employee salaries that got stuck at lower pay grades during the financial austerity measures. No particular House actions have been taken on the bill as of publication.

ILLEGAL

From Page 1

"This will be one more holiday that we will spend in Saipan without our families as we wait to be paid," said the statement.

The statement also claimed that casino representatives, along with the CNMI Department of Labor, reportedly visited the worker's dormitory last week to discuss their wages.

"A number of threats were also made to pressure us to accept the offer and return to China," said the workers.

"The casino representatives stated that we would be evicted from the dormitory imminently and forced to wander the streets; the immigration authorities will arrest us; and that MCC International was no longer operating on Saipan and its personnel could not be found."

The workers claimed the "attempted coercion" only disgruntled the workers further, especially those that "were offered just a few thousand dollars."

The statement cited but did

not specify federal laws that suggests employees that are not paid the minimum wage nor overtime are entitled to back wages plus an additional 100 percent of that amount as liquidated damages.

"... The casino is unwilling to pay even these basic, legally required amounts," the statement claimed. "Further, no compensation has been offered for the fact that we have been stranded here on Saipan for five months, unable to work nor earn money for our families."

The remaining Chinese workers were hired through MCC International, the prime contractor of IPI to construct their casino resort, the Imperial Pacific Resort. The workers entered through the CNMI-only visa waiver program, a program that enables passport holders of China and Russia to enter without obtaining visas from the U.S. embassies in each respective country. Chinese and Russian passport holders that enter the CNMI through the visa waiver program are considered to be tourists and are only allowed a 30-day stay in the CNMI.

APASEEM makes call for presentations

The Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management (APASEEM) is presently putting forth this Call for Presentations for its upcoming annual meeting Nov 8 and 9, 2017 (possible addition of Nov 7). APASEEM is pleased to encourage regional scientists, science teachers, and resource managers to contribute announcements via our website, at www.apaseem.org. Please help APASEEM distribute this announcement widely to all on your professional contacts list.

This year APASEEM is looking to mesh its conference schedule to other events in the hopes of saving on flights and expenses for presenters and attendee's

alike. As in the past, APASEEM has reserved American Memorial Park Auditorium (which seats up to 112 people) as the venue for the conference.

All interested science and environmental professionals—and teachers and students of these disciplines—are encouraged to develop a 15- to 20-minute presentation on their recent work which may be of interest to the CNMI's science, science education, and environmental management community. To get scheduled on the meetings' agenda, just contact any officer (see email addresses below). A topical title and a brief abstract (one paragraph) of your talk will help us to better advertise our conference, so please

send these at your earliest convenience. For examples please see past years' talks on APASEEM's website.

APASEEM is also using this opportunity to continue its ongoing membership drive. Please spread the word that APASEEM mostly operates on annually due membership fees and contributions. If you've been thinking about becoming a dues-paying active member, or if your affiliation or agency is able to do so, please encourage this and join APASEEM. Two reminders; most of us find it easy to pay at or around the date of our annual conference, and fees for professional organizations are tax deductible. Please note speakers get half off on annual fees if

they've presented sometime during the previous year. Group rates are available for any organization, public or private, see website for fees and mailing address. Potential new members and/or potential group officers are highly encouraged to make contact with us.

As background, APASEEM's updated Academy's Synopsis document is included on its website.

Please contact Michael Trianni (president) via mtrianni@ymail.com; or John Furey (vice president) via jfurey.saipan.com@gmail.com; or Andre Kozij (treasurer) via akaspn88@gmail.com; or roy adsit (secretary) via roy.adsit@cnmipss.org to get on this year's conference schedule. (PR)

NURSES

From Page 1

"Compare Guam and the CNMI, there is much difference. For nurses, it is very easy to say no to the CNMI and go to Guam. We realize that the CNMI has to be really convincing for people to stay," she said.

"Obviously when nursing students graduate, sometimes they do not choose to work in CHCC. So one of the things we discussed was, for example, sometimes people do not like the salary base that we have that's why we have a nursing shortage," she added.

According the CHCC Human Resources officer Claire Ngirausui, the nurses will be classified under step 5 with retention of old benefits.

"Basically our pay scheme is in the same level as the government as we have step 1 to step 12. This increase will put them, the nurses, at the middle, step 5. Let's say for staff nurse 2, earns about \$34,000 a year before. With the increase, it will be elevated to \$44,000 a year. That

is a significant increase with the same benefits."

In last week's budget allocation, CHCC was given a little over \$700,000. Muña said that the government is not paying for the salary increase.

"The government is not paying for the increase. Our decision was we were going to move forward but we need to come up with a consensus that says that this is something we can afford in the event the CNMI government does not give us the money. The salary increase is step 5 and if the government has given us more, we probably could've gotten to step 8," she said.

The talks of salary increase have been in the works for the last three months. CHCC realizes that increasing the salaries is not enough. It has to be competitive.

"We've been in discussion with the nursing leadership to come up with a scale that is acceptable and one that is also considered as an incentive for them. We want to make sure that they are a part of this. This is not just our decision and not listening to what their needs

are. It was their decision too and it was the best conversation we've had. Everyone was a partner, everyone was involved," Muña said.

"We decided to meet halfway where we will be able to give the salary increase and at the same time, not pass the burden to our patients and the community," she added.

The impact of the increase was calculated to have an additional cost to the hospital of \$2 million to \$3 million a year and the salary increase does not only affect the nurses but it will be across the board.

Ngirausui said they are also looking at performance-based increases by revamping CHCC's policy on performance and the form itself.

"We are currently classifying all the positions into that paying scale. We have 665 personnel and we handle everyone. We have contract, limited terms, and then we have permanent. So we already did the salary increase for the nurses so now, everybody else will be included—Public Health, Centers for Disease Control, Kagman Community

Health Center..." she said

"Our discussions with the work group, leadership team, financial team, and revenue team resulted to a decision that nurses will be involved to make sure that patients pay," Muña said.

CHCC has come up with ways to increase and strengthen revenue. First, the hospital tasked the nurses to document every patient care given to capture charges so it can be billed, adjustment of Medicare and Medicaid so when the reimbursements come, CHCC will get the value of that cost at least to a higher level (looking at 50 percent increase in costs), the hiring of a charge master to be in charge of revenue centers, and increase in room rates.

According to Muña the increase does not only address the workforce issue but also enhance patient care.

"Our obligation is to be able to address patient care. Right now, if we are going to run a hospital, we have to protect patient's safety and personnel safety. With this salary increase, we are able to make sure that we have the nurses," she said.

SHOOTING

From Page 1

descended on the concert and the casino, and officers used explosives to get into the hotel room where the suspect was inside, authorities said. The gunman died at the scene and was identified by Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo as Stephen Paddock. A motive as not immediately known.

Aldean was in the middle of a song when the shots came rapidly: Pop-pop-pop-pop. Video of the shooting then showed Aldean stopping and the crowd getting quiet as if they were unsure of what had just happened. The gunman paused and then fired another volley of muzzle flashes from the gold glass casino as more victims fell to the ground while others fled in panic. Some said they hid behind concession stands and other crawled under parked cars.

Kodiak Yazzie, 36, said the music stopped temporarily when the first shots began and the tune even started up again before the second round of pops sent the performers ducking for cover and fleeing the stage.

"It was the craziest stuff

I've ever seen in my entire life," Yazzie said. "You could hear that the noise was coming from west of us, from Mandalay Bay. You could see a flash-flash- flash- flash."

Thousands in the crowd fled as the bullets ran rampant. Monique Dumas from British Columbia, Canada, said she was at the concert, six rows from the front of the stage when she thought she heard a bottle breaking, and then a burst of popping sounds that may have been fireworks. She said as she made her way out, it was "organized chaos" as everyone fled. "It took four to five minutes and all that time there was gunfire."

In addition to Paddock, police said they located a woman who may have been his roommate — Marilou Danley, 62. Lombardo said they believe this was a "lone wolf" attack.

"It's a devastating time," Lombardo said.

Police shut down the usually busy Las Vegas Boulevard and authorities across the state and federal ranks converged onto the scene as dozens of ambulances ferried those struck by gunfire. Nearby Interstate 15 and flights at McCarran International Airport were also halted.

Manglona objects to 'unreasonable' attorney's fees incurred by siblings

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) is objecting to the \$70,000 in attorney's fees allegedly incurred by his siblings who are co-administrators of the estate of their late mother.

Manglona, through counsel Mark Scoggins, said he filed last Aug. 3 written objections to the estate co-administrators' attorney's fees

on several basis.

Priscilla Manglona Torres and Thomas A. Manglona are co-administrators of the Bernadita A. Manglona estate.

Scoggins said many or if not all of the reasons for the prior objections remain, and Sen. Manglona reiterates his prior objections.

Scoggins said it remains the case that the requested fees are unreasonable.

Scoggins said the request-

ed fees should be viewed skeptically by the Superior Court due to counsel's admitted practice and propensity not to track his time and submit regular billings to the co-administrators.

Scoggins said similarly and relatedly, the co-administrators have breached their duty to the estate by failing to regularly monitor their counsel's activity and billings.

Scoggins said if the co-administrators believe it



Manglona

reasonable to allow their counsel to go for months and months without preparing and submitting a bill, and if they also believe it acceptable for themselves to only review those billings when it is time to request a payment, then the co-administrators should pay these fees themselves.

Scoggins said it is not reasonable to expect that the estate pay close to \$70,000 in attorney's fees, and this on top of the excessive fees al-

ready allowed, under the circumstances described in this and the prior objection.

The co-administrators, through counsel Samuel I. Mok, filed an accounting of estate funds last Saturday.

Mok said a total of \$91,098 in cash was received in to the estate court trust account from the commencement of this probate to last Friday consisting of stock dividends received from and deposited by Saipan Steve-dore Company Inc., Saipan Shipping Company Inc, and UMDA.

Mok said a total of \$56,845

was expended from the estate court trust account pursuant to court orders authorizing such expenditures including payment of estate administrative expenses and attorney's fees, mediation fees and advancement of legal fees and anticipated expenses for separate quiet title actions.

Mok said there is presently a balance in the estate court trust account of \$34,253.

Sen. Manglona is suing Torres, Thomas Manglona, and the estate over their disputed Upper Capital Hill property.

IN LACK OF BILINGUAL TEACHERS 'I'm not concerned about Praxis tests'

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is far more concerned about the ability of a bilingual instructor to fluently understand the indigenous language and effectively relay it to students, over the almost unattainable requirements that the Board of Education is currently requiring like Praxis exams.

Praxis tests measure the academic skills and subject-specific content knowledge needed for teaching. It's a requirement in teaching at public schools.

Recently, the Saipan Language Policy Commission, in conjunction with the Indigenous Affairs Office, the Carolinian Affairs Office, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, decided that to combat the shortage of bilingual educators that teach the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian languages, a development of an alternative temporary certification process should be considered.

Torres is in full support of the agreement because according to him, the indigenous language is the identity of the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture. "It is who we are," said Torres.

Lately, it has been observed that the current generation has lost touch with its identity because the language isn't taught effectively due to the shortage of educators. Torres fears that if this continues, the language and identity will only continue to die. According to Torres, once one generation neglects to embrace the indigenous identity and forgets the importance of the language, it will be ten times harder to revive it for the generation after.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, Board of Education member Herman Guerrero was not in agreement with the MOA and even questioned if the

language commission has the capability to choose who are eligible to become instructors.

In response to that, Torres said that the purpose of the commission is to decided these kinds of things. "We have a commission who decides... there is no U.S standard, there is no other standard but our standard," said Torres.

Torres' main concern is solely on whether or not the children are learning the language properly and if they comprehend it.

Torres said that eligible instructors should have a background in reading, writing, and speaking of the language and that they can successfully relay their knowledge to the current generation to better their understanding and capability in the language. "I am more concerned of that than Praxis tests and so forth...I am more concerned that our language is taught the right way," said Torres.

According to Torres, indigenous language educators should not be chosen based off of the standard criteria used to identify instructors of core subjects. "Its different from teaching math and science," said Torres. He believes that the focus should be on the language itself and on an educator's capability of teaching the language as a whole and not on their praxis scores and credentials.

Torres also believes that the responsibility of teaching the language also does not fail solely on the education system. "It is critical to practice the language at home," said Torres.

"It (the language) must be practiced at home, education in school should compliment the teachings at home," said Torres.

When asked about his opinion on Torres' statement, Carolinian Affairs Office executive director John Tagabuel said that even with the support of Torres, the decision still falls on the Board of Education.



Torres

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Governor in process of selecting election panel members

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is currently in the process of selecting four commissioner positions for the Commonwealth Election Commission after the commission informed the governor that they lacked members a couple of weeks ago.

Torres said in an interview last Tuesday that he is currently looking at interested parties for filling up the vacant slots. All of the four vacant slots are reserved for representatives of the Saipan and Northern Islands.

The nine-man commission

is currently comprised of pro tem chair Jesus I. Sablan for Saipan and the Northern Islands, pro tem vice chair Donald Hofschneider and Joseph E. Santos for Tinian and Aguiguan, and Leilani Manglona and Esther

Yatar for Rota.

» 4 seats vacant to represent Saipan, Northern Islands

“We’ve been asking some folks if they are interested in serving,” he said, adding that he was hopeful that they would respond by the end of the week.

“Once they do, we would be forwarding the names over [to the Senate for approval],” added Torres.

According to Torres, former chair Frances M. Sablan “continues to show interest in serving” and remains “in discus-

sions” for her reappointment. Her term expired last Aug. 8.

Last Tuesday, election commissioner Trinidad Rabauli-

man’s term expired, the same day the CEC pro tem chair called for a meeting.

A CEC commissioner

serves a four-year term and requires Senate confirmation.

Jesus Sablan has been serving the CEC since 2007 and

said during their meeting last Tuesday that he was willing to serve as chair of the CEC should his health allow it.

Torres signs bill to expand, supplement NMHC, HUD housing assistance

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last week signed Senate Bill 20-7 into Public Law 20-18 to expand the use of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. agreement payments to include supplementing and leveraging NMHC and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 Housing Assistance and loans programs as well as other federal and local housing and community programs administered by NMHC.

Authored by Senate Presi-

dent Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), the bill will eliminate the lease agreement requirement to replace the Annex housing units located in Garapan because there are sufficient housing assistance units or vouchers to accommodate recipients.

According to Torres, Public Law 6-34, which authorized NMHC to lease certain lands for commercial development in the North Garapan Subdivision, required that all 45 existing housing units be replaced.

“I applaud Senate Presi-

dent Palacios for the authoring of this bill which found that although NMHC opted out of the US HUD Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contracts for the subdivision, none of the tenants were displaced and were in fact accommodated through housing assistance vouchers or the HOME program. Amending and repealing this portion will better suit the needs of NMHC and our community,” Torres said.

The law will further allow for working capital to

NMHC’s direct family home loan program and to assist in providing infrastructure for existing and future village homestead developments for the island of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands for low to moderate income families.

The law will further defray the costs of administering and managing NMHC’s housing assistance, housing loan and loan guarantee programs and other programs NMHC may administer in the future. (PR)



Bridge Investment Group Construction Site manager Romeo Diaz, center left, and chief of safety Skip Hall, center right, pose with BIG employees.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIG prioritizes workforce training

SAN JOSE, Tinian—Sixty-two current and former employees of Bridge Investment Group, LLC received their Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10-Hour Construction Industry Outreach Training certification cards last Sept. 18. The outreach training program was conducted by

chief of safety and in-house authorized-OSHA trainer, Sewell “Skip” Hall.

The 10-Hour OSHA outreach training program is recommended, but is not an employer’s requirement under specific OSHA Standards. The program provides basic safety and health education and information.

The program also provides workers and employers on the recognition, avoidance, abatement, and prevention of safety and health hazards, workers’ rights, employer responsibilities, and how to properly file a complaint with OSHA. Through this training, OSHA helps to ensure that workers are more knowledgeable about workplace hazards and their rights

in the construction industry.

“I didn’t foresee the positive impact it would have in so many different ways. Each person learned many things they didn’t know about or were totally unaware of,” said Hall. “To this day, the employees tell me things they see people doing in an unsafe manner outside of our company. I encouraged all 62 of my stu-

dents to take what they learn in class and apply it not only on the job but also off the job in their daily lives.”

Moreover, back in May of this year, the current head of the BIG Human Resources department, Wayne Sanchez, completed a six-month Human Resources Management program from Cornell University’s School of Labor and Industrial Relations. Cornell,

an Ivy League school located in Ithaca, New York, is ranked one of the top 14 schools in the nation.

BIG understands the importance and benefits of workforce training. The company will continue to support and take advantage of all types of training that will contribute to each employees’ current and future professional careers. (PR)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, Oct. 3, from 4:50am to 6pm.

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Oct. 4-, from noon to 6pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the

island. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40’ 00”N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. (PR)

Chamber meeting on Oct. 4

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort tomorrow, Oct. 4. The luncheon begins at 11:30am and the meeting starts promptly at noon. Guest speakers feature Gary Camacho, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., to update Chamber members on power generation, water programs,

and the effect of the island’s growth. Also speaking is Ray Reyes from SSFM about the comprehensive land use plan being updated for the Department of Public Lands. (PR)

NMDC membership meeting

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. will have a general membership meeting today, Oct. 3, from 6pm to 7pm, at the Carolinian *utt*. The meeting’s agenda will cover public land leases, proposed land lease extensions, and the Northern Marianas Cultural Center. The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. board of

directors meeting will take place on Oct. 9 at 9am at the Garapan Community Development Center. (PR)

Tinian mayor to request for military assistance

The Office of the Tinian Mayor intends to solicit assistance from the Department of Defense’s Innovative Readiness Training Program. The assistance will include no-cost dental care and related services. The proposed assistance will take place at Tinian Health Center during the month of September 2018.

Dental providers or private

citizens who have questions or who wish to voice opposition to military assistance for the project may contact Ignacio P. Kiyoshi Jr. at the Office of the Mayor at 433-1800/3222 no later than seven days after publication of this notice.

Persons not filing comments within the time frame noted will be considered to have waived their objections to military assistance for the project. Info can be found at <http://irt.defense.gov/>. (PR)

Lions Club to celebrate 25th anniversary

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club will be a host a

fundraiser called “The Ultimate Drag Queen 2017” on Nov. 4 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort, with VIP tickets priced at \$25 and general admission at \$10. Proceeds will be used for the club’s community projects. Fourteen candidates will be competing. The show will be choreographed and directed by Ernie Molina. For more details and sponsorships, call SFALC president Annamae Adaza at 483-5237, vice president Lourdes Ortiz at 785-2306, VP Leony Mendoza at 287-7563, secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Molina at 789-8212. (PR)



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GCA has plentiful harvest in PGFC competition

Despite the short preparation, Grace Christian Academy had a plentiful harvest at the first Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition for kindergarten to fifth grade. PGFC competition encourages public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic performing arts: reading, public speaking, and interpretations.

Thank you to all the judges, parents, and guardians who went and supported the students in this event last Sept. 16, 2017, at Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in this competition.

K-2 DIVISION

Humorous Interpretation A

Hans Gabriel Ordas, 1st Place
Aiyana Victory Fatialofa, 3rd Place
Akira Ito, 4th Place

Duo Interpretation A

Mariska Badal, 3rd Place



Hannah Gabaldon, 3rd Place
Aiyana Victory Fatialofa, 4th Place
Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, 4th Place

Impromptu Speaking A

En Mei Victoria Huang, 1st Place
Hans Gabriel Ordas, 3rd Place
Sa Rang Lee, 4th Place
Hannah Gabaldon, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking B

Akira Ito, 1st Place
Llyanna Jaira Manalang, 2nd Place
Avania Clarise Quichocho, 3rd Place
Prince Jhulz Reyes, 4th Place

Readers Forum Masters B

Llyanna Jaira Manalang, 1st Place
Prince Jhulz Reyes, 2nd Place

Avania Clarise Quichocho, 3rd Place

Readers Forum B

Justo Quitugua, 1st Place

3-5 DIVISION Dramatic Interpretation A

Tae Hee Kim, 3rd Place
Jennifer Woo, 4th Place
Jessica Yao Ma, 5th Place

Humorous Interpretation A

Moir Grace Ernest, 1st Place
Earjean Jonathan Pantaleon, 2nd Place
Azriel Fatialofa, 3rd Place

Duo Interpretation A

Min Su Andy Kim, 5th Place
Woochan Scott Woo, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking A

Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 1st Place

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy participants to the school year's first Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition for kindergarten to fifth grade pose for a photo. The GCA students took part in the event last Sept. 16 at the Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School.

Moir Grace Ernest, 2nd Place
Angieleysha Marie Punzalan, 3rd Place
Justin Yao Ma, 4th Place
Ethan John Quichocho, 5th Place

Readers Forum A

Ethan John Quichocho, 3rd Place
Mackenzie Nari Chung, 5th Place

Readers Forum B

Justin Yao Ma, 1st Place
Woochan Scott Woo, 3rd Place
Rafael Ablog, 4th Place
Min You, 5th Place

Readers Forum Masters A

Tae Hee Kim, 2nd Place
Jennifer Woo, 3rd Place
Angieleysha Marie Punzalan, 5th Place

Readers Forum Masters B

Azriel Fatialofa, 3rd Place
Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 4th Place
Jeongyun Jang, 5th Place

Twenty-two students from Green Meadow School participated in the first round of the Junior Thespian held last Sept. 16 at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School.

Out of the 22, 15 made it to the podium after getting superior, excellent, and good rankings from a panel of judges in the monologue, solo musical, and duet acting and musical categories.

"We are very proud of our students' achievement, especially since it was their first time to compete in the Junior Thespian. A job well done GMS students," GMS principal Milagros Songcuan said.

"We would also like to congratulate and acknowledge our hard-working teachers for their efforts and patience in training our students. A big thank you also goes out to the students' parents for their unwavering support," the GMS principal

GMS Falcons compete in Junior Thespian



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School participants in the first round of the Junior Thespian held last Sept. 16 at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School pose for a photo.

added.

GMS students will participate in two more preliminary rounds of the competition in their bid to advance to the Ju-

nior Thespian Finals that will be held in February.

The following are the students who placed in the first round of the Junior

Thespian:

Liana Daga, 2nd /Superior

in Monologue

Areeza Anda, 3rd/ Superior

in Monologue

Darren Tabora, 5th/Superior in Monologue

Ariel Legaspi, 3rd/Superior in Solo Musical

Chloe Lagmay and Sabino Cabrera, 2nd/Superior in Duet Acting

Josh Coloma and Kristin Dela Cruz, 4 th/Excellent in Duet Acting

Honey Satur and Elijah Umali, 4th/ Excellent in Duet Musical

Raeka Lantin/Daniel Gonzales, 5th/Excellent in Duet Musical

Krizel Drilon and Nicole Sacramento, 5th/Excellent in Duet Acting

Lorenz Espiritu, 5th/Good in Solo Musical (PR)

Vanuatu island exodus continues even as volcano stabilizes

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The evacuation of a Vanuatu island was continuing on Monday even after scientists said an erupting volcano had stabilized.

A makeshift fleet of vessels ranging from tiny water taxis to large landing craft was moving thousands of people from Ambae island to nearby islands in the Pacific archipelago.

Vanuatu officials last week ordered the complete evacuation of Ambae's 11,000

residents, fearing the Manaro volcano might blow in a major eruption.

New Zealand volcanologist Brad Scott says the volcano has stabilized over the last few days. He says lava is continuing to erupt from Manaro but is no longer interacting with water as it was in the volcano's earlier and more explosive stage.

Government spokesman Hilaire Bule says officials would have to lift the evacuation order to reverse the exodus.



Nearly 134,200 people have evacuated from possible eruption of volcano

Java Sea
Mount Agung volcano
Bali
75 km
75 miles
Indian Ocean
DETAIL AREA
Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Tickets for Love Kennedy still available

Love Kennedy tickets can still be purchased for the 1pm and 3pm viewing. The movie will be screened at the Regal Theater on Nov. 26, with other scheduled showings at 11am and possibly at 5pm.

The movie stars Yvonne Bennett, a former celebrated athlete in the CNMI, and she will be on-island for the premiere of the movie, where she has a supporting role. Tickets are sold at \$10.

"It is not sold out yet. Those who have pledged to purchase a ticket are encouraged to expedite the pur-

chase of their tickets," said a press release by Bennett's parents, Ambrose and Lillian Bennett.

Love Kennedy is targeted for religious audiences. T.C. Christensen, director of *17 Miracles* and *Cokeville Miracle*, directed the movie, which is a true story about Kennedy Hansen who is a funny, loving, and seems to be a typical child—until she inexplicably begins to fall.

It takes years for a diagnosis, which ends up being Juvenile Batten disease, an extremely rare, terrible, and

terminal prognosis. There is no cure for Batten disease and after living only 16 years, Kennedy leaves behind a great legacy of love and friendship. But her story doesn't end at her death—in fact, that's when the miracles really begin.

If you believe in miracles you should see this movie. Please contact Ambrose M. Bennett who is listed in the phone book or email: ambrosebennett@yahoo.com. Thanks to all the people of the CNMI for supporting our daughter. (PR)

SAR: Participants progressing at level they are ready for

Furthering discussions with government agencies and stakeholders, the Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program recently held roundtable meetings of ongoing programs and services at the Hinemlu O'hala Para Enteramenti (HOPE) Recovery Center.

Prior to the center's opening, Special Assistant for Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Yvette Sablan shared that the program has been receiving calls from a great number of people inquiring about the group home. Now that the

center has opened, the individuals and families are concerned about their time away from their families.

"This is really a positive concern for me, because treatment includes the family, and it is comforting to know that the family are still hopeful and are concerned about their time apart. Our work is harder if the family has chosen to close their doors, in which we also understand and respect considering the hardship and struggles they've endured, but we strongly encourage individu-

als to give us a chance to help them, and we also encourage the loved ones to especially take part in the treatment, because they too, are victims of the brunt of the substance misuse and it is important to treat the individual and family as a whole," Sablan said.

Licensed Clinical Substance Abuse counselor Reuben Chong added that there has been positive progress in the program.

"On any pioneering journey, the road is filled with trial and tribulations, however,

we've had a 100 percent compliance with the drug results within the last three screenings and participants are progressing at a level that they are ready for," Chong said.

Roundtable discussion

According to Sablan, the discussions focused on the current institutional challenges and better ways to address gaps to build an all-inclusive substance abuse program.

"These community partnerships are key to the success of rehabilitation. Stakeholders

need to know firsthand the services available within our program and how to better serve our community's diverse needs. We plan our next meeting to focus on enforcement agencies such as Customs, Corrections, the CNMI Drug Court and the Department of Public Safety. As a joint effort with the Community Guidance Center with the support of CHCC, and co-facilitator Dr. Glenda George, we are working to educate our agencies and the community on our efforts on addressing substance misuse," she said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed that ongoing trainings and stakeholder meetings are crucial to the program's development. He reiterated this program as a commitment and investment in the future of our islands, from developing our workforce to healing our people.

"From the establishment of drug court to the opening of the recovery facility, this undertaking requires consistent and ongoing collaboration. I am pleased that there is positive progression and it is my hope that this recovery center is strengthened and becomes a working model for all communities who are struggling with this issue. Combatting substance abuse, ice addiction, and mental health disorders is a community effort and requires the government to work proactively together to achieve a common goal. These discussions will help provide a better understanding of the SAR program and better ad-

dress gaps within our community services. I extend my appreciation to our counselors, healthcare personnel, volunteers, and the patients for taking these steps to build and strengthen our community," Torres said.

Personnel update

Sablan shared that the program has a total of 16 personnel which include three administrative staff, two licensed clinicians, three bachelor level counselors that support the clinicians with case management, and seven behavioral health technicians that work a 24-hour rotation at the H.O.P.E. Recovery Center group home.

"We are continuously providing training for the staff to support our effort on increasing our professional capacity to serve the Commonwealth efficiently. Very soon, quite a few staff may qualify to partake in an upcoming course that would prepare them for the Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC) examination," she said.

Chong added that currently the center has eight beds available and are working on a third intake for the group home, including an increase in residential participants and that collaborative work with the CNMI Drug Court is ongoing.

Sablan further noted that the center is ready and available to provide Intensive Outpatient (IOP) and Outpatient (OP) levels of care and that anyone can walk-in for assistance. For further assistance, please call 323-7277/78. **(PR)**



SIS headmaster sworn in as Rotarian

Ron Snyder, the headmaster of Saipan International School, was sworn in as the CNMI's newest Rotarian last Tuesday. Newly appointed officers in the Rotary Club of Saipan's sister program, Interact Club, from Kagman High School as well as SIS were able to attend.

The induction ceremony was short and sweet, and took place during the club's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The CNMI's newest Rotarian was welcomed warmly, as he took his pledge and delivered a simple speech.

Snyder is also the advisor for the SIS chapter of Rotary Interact, an organization dedicated to "Service Above Self."

SIS has recently become a part of the Rotary Interact community, and has already begun raising funds for and volunteering at the local animal shelter, Saipan Cares for Animals by fundraising, volunteering and collecting donations. SIS is the association's only private school, and participants are looking forward to building goodwill and better friendships with the rest of Interact and all of Rotary

International.

Snyder was sworn in after a presentation was given to the meetings attendees. The presentation was given by Kanae Quinn, who discussed the importance of the Make-a-Wish Foundation, and the work that the organization does in the CNMI. The cooperation of these two associations, both working to make the world a better place is sure to be a positive influence on our islands. With the help of their newest member, the CNMI's Rotary club will continue to assist communities across the globe. **(PR)**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School headmaster Ron Snyder, second from left, with SIS Interact officers and Rotary Club of Saipan New Generations leaders.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 5th birthday Francisco Joseph "Kiku" Love, Daddy, Mommy, and twin brothers Se' and Ze'.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) RFP18-CHCC/CGC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 3, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adahi

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Kurdish collision course: A push for independence will roil tensions

The result of last week's Kurdish referendum, which showed some 93 percent voting for independence, was certainly no surprise.

The propulsion on the part of the Kurds to have their own country presents a conundrum for the national states upon whose territory Kurds live. The United States is heavily involved with most of them, as it is with the Kurds themselves.

The victim of Kurdish independence that would suffer most is Iraq, which would lose as further humiliation a big piece of land as well as, in principle, oil revenues. Kurds are about 20 percent of the Iraqi population. The United States has a big stake in the survival and prosperity, if it can be imagined, of the Haider al-Abadi regime in Baghdad.

In the infamous Sunni-Shiite rivalry, in Iraq specifically, the Baghdad government is dominated by Shiites, allied with Shiite Iran, which also hosts a minority of Sunni Kurds. If Baghdad were to decide to try to use force to avert Kurdish independence, it could almost certainly depend upon Iran to side with it in any such conflict. The United States would be up a tree if that occurred, of course. The region would add another Sunni-Shiite conflict, joining Yemen.

U.S. ally Turkey has an estimated 25 percent Kurdish minority, which sporadically gives it trouble, including terrorist attacks by the Kurdish Workers' Party in Turkey. Turkey would almost automatically be opposed to Kurdish independence. Its recently improving relations with former enemy Russia, based in part on some fellow feeling between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin, reflect Turkey's feeling the need to diversify its alliances outside of NATO, and, particularly, with the United States.

The Syrian government of President Bashar Assad would certainly be opposed to handing over any of its disputed territory to Syrian Kurds, even though they have been active in attacking Islamic State forces in Raqqa in Syria, enemies of the Assad regime, and Sunnis. Again, the United States finds itself on the horns of a dilemma in the Syrian government-Kurdish relationship, as it has provided a considerable amount of military support to the Syrian Kurds in Raqqa and elsewhere in Syria.

In Iraq, the official reaction was swift. The parliament requested that troops be sent to Kirkuk, the most important region of Iraq under Kurdish control. The lawmakers suggested seizing the plentiful oil fields. The prime minister has not acted, but it's just one indication of potential conflicts in the immediate future.

The United States has protected, supported and used the Kurds as mercenaries in Iraq and Syria since at least 1992. Now they want something, and voted for it massively, that will put us at odds with our longtime ally Turkey, the government we support in Iraq, and the ones we have to live with in Iran and Syria.

Someone should have thought this through a long time ago, but didn't. Now, heavy-duty diplomacy will be required not to make the Middle East more of a mess than it is already.

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The difference between Colin Kaepernick and West Point grad Spencer Rapone

This is the story of two young men: one black, one white, and both of whom wear uniforms. We're already familiar with the black man, whose refusal to stand for the national anthem has become a cause celebre and triggered a discussion about what are the limits of patriotism and free speech. My column was going to be focused on Colin Kaepernick and the ramifications of his choice. But then I heard about the white man, a West Point graduate named Spencer Rapone. And what he did convinced me that this was about more than just a football player taking a knee before kickoff.

Rapone is, as of this writing, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He is also someone who likes to post controversial things on social media, including a picture of himself in full uniform with the words "Communism Will Win" written on the inside of his cap. He also proudly showed off the shirt he was wearing underneath his jacket, emblazoned with a colorful red reproduction of Che Guevara's face. This guy graduated in 2016, at about the same time Kaepernick's protest picked up steam.

Let's stipulate at the outset that in Kaepernick's case there is no First Amendment issue, and in Rapone's case there might be.

The NFL is not an arm of the U.S. government (despite its close resemblance in terms of institutional dysfunction) and so the former QB doesn't have a constitutional leg to stand — or kneel — on. But he does have a right to express his views without being censored, and he is doing that on a regular basis. Others have joined in to help him get that same message of protest and inequality out there on Sunday afternoons.

Rapone could point to the First Amendment, because his employer, so to speak, is the Department of Defense. However, the Code of Military Conduct has some specific provisions that cover "conduct unbecoming," and so it's far from certain that his words are protected speech. In fact, West Point issued a strongly worded statement that "Second Lt. Rapone's actions in no way reflect the values of the U.S. Military Academy or the U.S. Army." They could have added "or any American who walks upright."

So there's probably something else Kaepernick and Rapone will soon have in common: unemployment.

The thing that I find most fascinating about the nature of these two protests — one symbolic and one verbal — is that Rapone's was allegedly triggered by Kaepernick's. The "Communism Will Win" photo was tweeted out in support of Kaepernick on Monday after a weekend of public obsession about President Donald Trump's suggestion to fire the players who disrespected the anthem, and pushback from NFL and other major league

By **CHRISTINE FLOWERS**

Philadelphia Daily News

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players doing their own brand of calisthenics to support him.

Many believe that the former QB was within his rights to protest, but that he was showing immense disrespect for the symbols of our democracy. People raised their own voices in counterprotest or engaged in boycotts. (Not me, because there is always the possibility you might miss a 61-yard game-winning field goal against your division rival.)

I have no problem letting a football player protest what he believes to be inequality (and what is an unfortunate mish-mash of legitimate claims of police brutality and legitimate acts of police valor) because, it's a hallmark of our democracy. At the same time, I'm sure not going to let those protests go unanswered without some of my own "expression" about how this narrative of an institutional war on young black men is just that: a subjective narrative. There's obviously some truth to the idea that the police have exercised very poor judgment in the past, resulting in the deaths of innocent men. To deny that is to be a blind lackey for those who think the badge is a "get out of jail free" card.

But the suggestion that virtually every single shooting of every single unarmed black male was the product of racial malice is as ridiculous as the suggestion that Barack Obama was not a U.S. citizen. It's a political claim advanced by demagogues and their lemmings, not a logical conclusion supported by fact.

Pushing back against this "taking the knee" phenomenon is a fair response to Kaepernick's "freedom of speech." In fact, it's a necessary one.

Spencer Rapone is a different matter. While the only real damage Kaepernick can do is screwing with our Sunday afternoons, this U.S. Army officer poses a threat to the government that provides him, the notorious QB and the rest of us with the right to shout out our grievance.

Rapone needs to go.

As far as the other guy in uniform, let him preach to his ever-growing choir. I'll be protesting right back.

God bless America, right?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Is the NAACP putting historic black colleges in peril?

The greatest country on earth is awash in fragile communities in which less than 20 percent of adults are literate, fourth graders lack proficiency in basic reading and math, jobs are scarce, and incarceration is as common as college.

These fragile communities are black, white, brown and yellow. They exist in places as different as Appalachia and Fort Lauderdale.

I know. I grew up in one. And had it not been for my mother's choice to take me out of a traditional public school and take advantage of the educational opportunity offered at a pilot magnet school, I would never have become a successful lawyer, corporate executive and now the head of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, which represents 47 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) — schools established when black students had no option other than segregated institutions. These schools have a long history of educating some of the nation's most influential and successful African-American doctors, educators, lawyers, business leaders and entrepreneurs.

It is through the lens of HBCUs that we have come to see that the plight of students trapped in poor schools, often in fragile communities, is not only an economic challenge for this nation, but an issue of national security.

We have a unique understanding at our colleges. We know what it takes to help students who are most economically disadvantaged and educationally vulnerable. And we know that when students are well prepared in primary and secondary grades, they are more likely to learn and to graduate from higher education than if they were disserved.

We also have a vested interest in ensuring that the children who arrive as freshmen on our campuses are extraordinarily well-prepared. Although some of our campuses have

experienced enrollment growth recently, the challenge we increasingly face is how to graduate young people who arrive as college freshmen woefully under-prepared academically. Currently, about 35 percent of HBCU students graduate within 6 years of starting their education. As federal and state governments refuse to fund remedial education for university students and demand higher graduation rates from post-secondary institutions, the only way HBCUs can survive is if the students who show up are college ready when they leave the PK-12 system.

Better parental choices are, frankly, a matter of life or death for many of our country's HBCUs. And the only way to impact that is to ensure that high quality secondary school choices abound and that parents are aware of the options that exist to help them take their families out of traditional district schools that have long failed their precious youth.

HBCUs have stepped up to the plate to provide this leadership. Howard University, for example, started a charter school called Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science, which is preparing the next generation of leaders for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This area of focus is of particular importance because African-Americans receive just 7.6 percent of all STEM bachelor's degrees and 4.5 percent of doctorates in STEM.

Another example of HBCUs taking matters into their own hands can be found in Tallahassee's Florida A&M University, which opened the Developmental Research School in 1877. The Research School gives a nationally competitive college preparatory education to each of its students and serves as a state-of-the-art laboratory for education innovation. Throughout its 140 years of existence, the school has graduated thousands of students who have gone on to become leaders in their chosen professions.

By JOHNNY C. TAYLOR JR.
Tribune News Service

Johnny C. Taylor Jr. is the president and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, the largest organization exclusively representing the black college community. Follow him on Twitter at @JohnnyCTaylorJr.



These are some of the things we are doing to address fragile communities. If we don't do it, who will?

It's become clear the organization that once supported the greatest needs of our disadvantaged is no longer interested in that work. The NAACP recently came out and again called for a moratorium on charter schools, absurdly claiming that the promise of charters never materialized.

This was preceded by American Federation of Teachers boss Randi Weingarten's attacks on school choice, referring to charters as the "polite cousins of segregation."

We cannot afford this kind of issue-myopia in our society. The stakes are simply too high as fragile communities continue a downward spiral. The only solution is to improve educational outcomes and that begins with increasing school choices for parents. We have seen the dangerous domino effect if kids in these communities are forced to stay in failing schools.

And while the NAACP and Weingarten seem to be perfectly comfortable with that scenario, we are not.

We will continue to fight for these fragile communities. And if the NAACP continues to reject the educational opportunities school choice provides them, they risk becoming irrelevant — or worse — an enemy of the very people they claim to fight for.

Goodbye, Corker; goodbye, Trump Mideast policy

This week, the GOP's savviest foreign policy expert in the Senate, Tennessee's Bob Corker, announced he won't run for re-election in 2018.

No doubt Corker knew he'd be primaried by pro-Trump populists who have declared war on mainstream Republicans. (See: Alabama.) But this sober senator had probably tired of chairing the once-powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the Trump era. Why hold serious hearings on weighty issues when they'll be ignored by a president who makes foreign policy by Twitter?

Corker's decision is one more reminder of the dangerous foreign policy confusion that has emerged under the Trump administration. And — apart from North Korea, there's nowhere that confusion is more risky than in Trump's contradictory policies toward the Middle East.

To be fair, any president would have had a tough time with the Mideast mess Trump inherited, the combined product of mistakes by Presidents Bush 43 and Obama along with the chaos of the Arab Spring.

And on the surface, Trump would seem to have returned to a traditional Republican approach to the Mideast: unremitting support for our Sunni Arab allies in the Persian Gulf and Israel, while working to curb Iranian mischief. Add to that "bomb the hell" out of the Islamic State and make the deal of the century on Israel-Palestine.

But the president's own lack of discipline and disdain for process have turned his would-be Mideast policy into hash.

Let us count the ways:

Point One. On the Sunni Arab alliance, the president was so entranced by the lavish reception he received from the Saudi royal family that he publicly endorsed its side in a quarrel with Qatar. Thus, Trump helped split the Sunni alliance and distracted its members from a coherent stance toward Iran.

Point Two. On the fight vs. the Islamic State, yes, the president intensified the battle already underway under Obama;

the jihadis have been mostly routed from Iraq and partly from Syria. But stabilizing Iraq and Syria in the post-Islamic State era requires skilled American diplomacy with full presidential backing — or else the Islamic State 2.0 will emerge.

In Iraq, for example, Washington still has a key role to play in mediating between factions, including Kurds and an angry Baghdad government after the Kurds' Monday independence referendum. Iraqi Sunnis freed from the Islamic State thrall also want U.S. mediation help with the Shiite-led government. A failure to provide it will open the door to a new jihadi explosion — and deeper Iranian penetration of Iraq.

However, Trump's military-only focus and indifference to broad long-term strategy offer little hope that proactive diplomacy will be on offer.

Which leads to Point Three. The United States needs to be talking seriously to Russia about how to stabilize post-Islamic State Syria lest it become another subsidiary of Iran. Shiite militias run by Iran now have access to the Syria-Israel border.

But Trump has made U.S. dialogue with Moscow impossible by his stubborn refusal to criticize Vladimir Putin or Russia's interference in the 2016 elections. This makes even necessary dialogue with the Russians suspect.

Point Four. Trump seems to view his foreign policy as a solo operation — tweeting as he sees fit, no matter if this contradicts the positions of his top advisers. Moreover, he appears indifferent to the fact that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is gutting the State Department, leaving few confirmed senior staff to ensure that policy is carried out.

Point Five. Under Trump, foreign policy is a family operation. He appointed his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and a personal lawyer as the gurus supposed to bring peace to Israel and the Palestinians. The State Department and National Security Council are out of the picture.

This is a farce that is going nowhere. Can you imagine the reaction if a President Hillary Clinton had appointed her son-

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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in-law, Marc Mezvinsky, to make Mideast peace?

Point Six. Most unnerving, the president's strategic blindness threatens to put the Iranian ayatollahs back on a short-term path to a bomb.

Despite opposition from his top security advisers, Trump is reportedly about to refuse to certify by Oct. 15 that Iran is in compliance with the deal that sharply curtails their nuclear program for the next decade. That will leave the door open for Congress to reinstate sanctions, which would effectively kill the deal.

America's top military chiefs, along with Tillerson, say Iran is in compliance. The five other participants in the deal, Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and China, oppose Trump's stance and would refuse to lift their sanctions. Corker, although an Iran hawk, has said Trump shouldn't "tear up" the deal.

If he does, Washington would be left as the outlier and Iran would have the option to restart its nuclear program. Chances of negotiating a second deal to end Iran's missile tests or extend the deal's time frame would be nil.

Trump is all alone on this one, except for his base. But there can be no sane Mideast policy with a president who envisions it in terms of domestic politics — and thinks he has all the answers.

No wonder Corker is planning to retire.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼77°

WEDNESDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

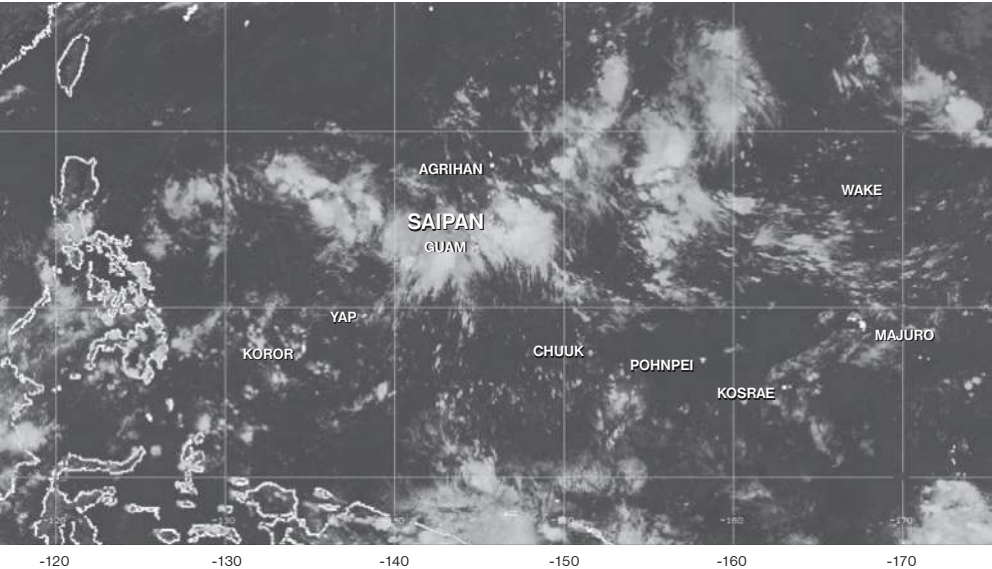
▲88° ▼77°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:10 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low could be found northeast of the Marianas near 23N153E. This low will move slowly west and be located near Pagan on Tuesday night. Upper-level divergence southwest of the low will help generate isolated showers and thunderstorms over the local area today and tonight. Earlier forecast had scattered showers beginning tonight but trimmed that as deep layer moisture will be lacking. Deep-layer moisture increases Tuesday and a weak surface trough in conjunction with the upper-level low will increase the chances of showers. Expect scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to start sometime on Tuesday and persist through Wednesday night. Drier weather will prevail over the Marianas Thursday and Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°	
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	86° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 55°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°	
London	Mostly Sunny	61° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 60°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	75° / 55°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
New York	Sunny	72° / 57°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	70° / 57°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 46°	
Busan	Cloudy	68° / 63°	
Rome	Cloudy	73° / 59°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	82° / 62°	
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 52°	
Seoul	Cloudy	70° / 54°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	76° / 56°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:18 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.69	
11:59 AM	LOW TIDE	0.17	
6:26 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.89	
-	-	-	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:05 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:33 am	4:22 pm
Wednesday	-	4:26 am	5:06 pm
Thursday	-	5:20 am	5:50 pm
Friday	-	6:15 am	6:36 pm
Saturday	-	7:12 am	7:23 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1	JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4	JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6 via GUM	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
U043	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	U042	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Equal federal disaster-relief for US territories sought

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) and Rep. Stacey Plaskett (D-USVI) and Resident Commissioner Jenniffer González-Colón (R-PR) led a letter seeking fair and robust federal emergency assistance for the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and all U.S. territories affected by natural disasters in any emergency-relief bills.

The bipartisan letter was sent to House Speaker Ryan, Democratic Leader Pelosi,

and the relevant House committees for federal emergency assistance. All five House members representing the U.S. territories co-signed the letter, as well as Rep. Norma J. Torres (CA-35), the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Subcommittee with jurisdiction over matters related to territories and other insular areas.

"We seek a firm commitment that the House provide fair and robust emergency assistance to U.S. territories devastated by natural disasters in any bills considered for the remainder of the Congress. The 4.5 million Americans living in the territories deserve no less. I am encouraged by recent statements from Republican leadership pledging emergency assistance for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, as they recover from these devastating

hurricanes," said Bordallo.

"As we all know, Hurricanes Irma and Maria left massive devastation in their wake, and the ongoing situation in the Virgin Islands remains dire. Congress must do our part when it comes to the recovery effort and that calls for much more effort and a much more vigorous investment," said Plaskett.

"Hurricanes Irma and Maria have been a disaster for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Currently, the islands have little or no reliable electricity, limited refrigeration, and very little gasoline and diesel fuel. Homes and businesses have been destroyed. For most of the islands' residents the situation is dire. Congress must approve an aid package that is commensurate

with the level of devastation and be certain that Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have equal access to all federal

disaster relief programs, just like the citizens of the mainland United States," said González-Colón (R-PR).

"As Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, I am proud to stand with the House Members representing the territories to ask for equal disaster-relief treatment for U.S. territories that states receive. Americans that live in the territories need access to the same types of federal resources, assistance, programs, grants, and long-term recovery funds in order to begin rebuilding their lives and economy," said

Congresswoman Norma J. Torres (D-CA).

"Our thoughts are with Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands as they recover from the immense damage of these hurricanes, and we remember our time of need in 2009 after the tsunami. We stand together in support for the financial resources they need now, and equitable disaster response solutions for the territories always," said Congresswoman Aumua Amata (R-AS).

"Federal assistance to the Marianas following Typhoon Soudelor was equivalent to the help that any other part of the United States receives from FEMA and SBA and all the other federal agencies that respond to disaster. We are very grateful for that response; and we believe that Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands deserve no less now

in their time of crisis," said Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-CNMI).

In the letter, all 5 House Members representing the territories and Ranking Member Torres also pledged they stand ready to support additional federal emergency assistance for hurricane victims and subsequent natural disasters impacting U.S. territories. FEMA Administrator Brock Long and House Appropriations Committee Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) and Ranking Member Nita M. Lowey (D-NY) were copied on the letter.

Bordallo is the dean of the House delegation from the territories and a senior member of the House Natural Resources Committee, where she holds the federal government accountable for its special responsibility to Guam and other the U.S. territories. **(PR)**



Bordallo

Deadline to submit DACA renewal requests on Oct. 5

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is reminding eligible Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients that they have one week to properly file their DACA renewal requests and associated applications for employment authorization. As previously announced, for recipients whose DACA and work authorization expire between Sept. 5, 2017, and March 5, 2018, inclusive, USCIS will continue to accept renewal requests through Oct. 5, 2017. These requests must be properly filed and physically received by the agency at the proper filing location no later than Oct. 5. The mailing address and instructions can be found here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-821d-addresses>. Renewal requests that are granted will be valid for two years, unless otherwise terminated or revoked.

Individuals with DACA and associated work authorization that expire after March 5, 2018, are no longer eligible to submit a renewal request. However, their current DACA and work authorization will remain valid until they expire, unless otherwise terminated or revoked.

Individuals with DACA and associated work authorizations that expired on or before Sept. 4, 2017, who had not properly filed a renewal request that was received on or before Sept. 5, 2017, are also no longer eligible to request renewal.

Based on legal guidance issued by the Attorney General, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke issued a memorandum on Sept. 5, 2017, initiating an orderly wind-down of DACA. Additional information on this topic can be found on the USCIS website.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), and Facebook (/uscis). **(USCIS)**



INAUGURAL FLIGHT

An arriving passenger aboard the inaugural flight of XTRA Airways from Nanjing, China, to Saipan greeted by marketing specialists Hillary Agulto and Keoni Hosono on Sept. 25, 2017.

Passenger aboard the inaugural flight of XTRA Airways from Nanjing, China, to Saipan mark the event on Sept. 24, 2017, at Nanjing Lukou International Airport.

MVA

USCIS awards nearly \$10M in grants to support citizenship preparation programs

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has awarded nearly \$10 million in grants to 45 public and private non-profit organizations across the country to help lawful permanent residents prepare for naturalization. The grants also help these organizations promote prospective citizens' assimilation into American civic life by funding educational programs designed to increase their knowledge of English, U.S. history and civics. Located in 26 states, these organizations will receive federal funding to support citizenship

preparation services for lawful permanent residents through September 2019.

USCIS awarded the grants through two competitive funding opportunities. The first funding opportunity supports organizations that provide citizenship instruction and naturalization application assistance. The second funding opportunity either assists non-profit organizations that have not previously received a grant from USCIS to establish new citizenship instruction programs, or helps organizations expand the quality and reach of their existing citizen-

ship instruction programs.

Organizations that receive grants under these funding opportunities can only use grant funds to provide services to immigrants who have been lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence.

Since it began in 2009, the USCIS Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program has awarded \$73 million through 353 competitive grants to public or private nonprofit organizations in 37 states and the District of Columbia. Now in its ninth year, the program has helped more than 190,000 lawful permanent residents

prepare for citizenship.

USCIS anticipates that this year's awards will assist an additional 25,000 lawful permanent residents from more than 50 countries prepare for naturalization by Sept. 30, 2019. A list of this year's recipients can be found on the USCIS website.

The Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program is a major part of the agency's efforts to support effective citizenship preparation services, and to provide information on naturalization to immigrants and public or private nonprofit organizations. USCIS also maintains the Citizenship Re-

source Center, an online hub that provides learning materials to help lawful permanent residents prepare for the naturalization process. USCIS also partners with federal, state and local agencies to raise awareness of the rights, responsibilities and importance of U.S. citizenship among the estimated 8.9 million lawful permanent residents nationwide who are eligible to apply for naturalization.

For additional information on the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program, please visit www.uscis.gov/grants. **(USCIS)**

Business

Trump advisers insist tax cut proposal won't favor rich

BEDMINSTER, New Jersey (AP)—President Donald Trump's top advisers said Sunday his proposed tax plan would not cut taxes disproportionately for the rich—despite an early non-partisan analysis that says it will.

The White House and congressional Republicans released the broad strokes of a plan last week that would dramatically cut corporate tax rates from 35 percent to 20 percent, reduce the number of personal income tax brackets and boost the standard deduction.

The Tax Policy Center of the Urban Institute and Brookings Institution released an analysis Friday that found the plan would deliver 50 percent of its total tax benefit to taxpayers in the top 1 percent, those with incomes above \$730,000 a year.

But White House budget director Mick Mulvaney told CNN's "State of the Union" it was too early for analysts to gauge that figure because the plan leaves out for now many crucial details, such as which income levels the new tax brackets would apply to.

"In fact, I don't think anybody can. And anybody who says they can is simply lying to you," Mulvaney said. "It is impossible to sit down and say, this will be the impact on this wage earner or this family at this particular time."

Still, that didn't stop Trump from doing just that during a speech in Indiana last week pitching the plan. In his remarks, Trump pointed to a number of locals, including Jonathan Blanton, an industrial janitor from Greentown, who earns a combined



AP
President Donald Trump gestures as he walks over to present the Presidents Cup to the U.S. team in Jersey City, N.J., Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017.

\$90,000 a year with his wife.

"Under our tax plan they would have saved more than \$1,000, and it could be substantially more," Trump told the crowd. "And that's just on federal taxes."

Trump has also insisted that the plan wouldn't reduce his personal tax bills, telling supporters: "It's not good for me. Believe me."

The plan includes a number of provisions that favor the rich, including cutting the top income tax rate, getting rid of the alternative minimum tax, and eliminating the federal es-

tate tax. Under current law, the first \$11 million of an estate is exempt for a married couple, meaning only the wealthiest Americans pay it.

But Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin told NBC's "Meet the Press" that Trump's goal is to boost jobs and lower the tax burden for the middle class.

"The president has been very clear. And I've been clear from the beginning. Our objective is not to create tax cuts for the wealthy. Our objective is about creating middle-income tax cuts," he said.

In a separate appearance on

ABC's "This Week," Mnuchin was asked whether he could guarantee Trump would not get a tax cut under his plan.

"Again, as I've said all along, the objective of the president is that rich people don't get tax cuts. And we're perfectly comfortable, as we go through this process, we'll explain to the American public how that works," Mnuchin said.

The Tax Policy Center and Brookings found that, under the plan, the after-tax incomes of the wealthiest Americans would increase 8.5 percent

Surveys show upbeat economic, investment outlook for Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A quarterly survey by the Bank of Japan released Monday showed business sentiment rising to its strongest level in a decade, exceeding analysts' expectations for the world's third largest economy.

The BOJ's "tankan" index for large manufacturers rose to 22 from 17 in June and a forecast level of 15. It suggested that growing shortages of factory capacity could encourage manufacturers to invest more, helping to drive growth.

"Capacity and staff shortages are the most pronounced since the early 1990s and the survey suggests that price pressures are strengthening," Marcel Thieliand of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

The report comes as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is seeking a fresh mandate for his nearly five-year-old administration. Last week, Abe dissolved parliament, paving the way for a snap election on Oct. 22, saying he wanted to gain public support for tough diplomatic and defense policies in light of escalating threats from Pyongyang.

The election's focus is not aimed mainly at Abe's economic policies, which have seen mixed success. But a new party launched

by Tokyo's governor, Yuriko Koike, is posing a fresh challenge at a time when Abe's support ratings have sagged. Surveys show many Japanese dissatisfied with all the major political parties, as wages lag and growth remains tepid.

Last month, Japan downgraded its economic growth estimate for April-June to an annualized rate of 2.5 percent, from the 4.0 percent reported earlier.

The Bank of Japan's survey of 10,687 companies showed sentiment among non-manufacturers and smaller companies holding steady.

However, longer term forecasts were less upbeat. Even among the more bullish larger manufacturers, more than two-thirds of respondents said they viewed conditions as "not so favorable," with less than 30 percent responding they were "favorable."

Another survey issued on Monday, the Nikkei purchasing managers' index, showed factory output and new orders accelerating. Hiring also expanded, but at a slower pace, as did prices for manufacturing inputs.

The survey rose to a four-month high of 52.9 on a 0-100 scale where readings above 50 signify expansion.

Source: Facebook to turn over Russia-linked ads

WASHINGTON (AP)—Social media giant Facebook is expected to provide Congress on Monday with more than 3,000 ads that ran around the time of the 2016 presidential election and are linked to a Russian ad agency.

Company officials will meet with the House and Senate intelligence committees and the Senate Judiciary Committee to hand over the ads, a Facebook official said. The official requested anonymity because the meetings are private.

Facebook said last month that it had found thousands of ads linked to Facebook accounts that likely operated out of Russia and pushed divisive social and political issues during the U.S. presidential election. The company said it found 450 accounts and about \$100,000 was spent on the ads.

Twitter has said it found

postings linked to those same accounts, and the House and Senate intelligence panels have asked both companies, along with Google, to testify publicly in the coming weeks.

None of the companies have said whether they will accept the invitations.

The three committees are investigating Russian meddling in the election and whether there are any links to President Donald Trump's campaign. They have recently focused on the spread of false news stories and propaganda on social media, putting pressure on the companies to turn over more information and release any Russia-linked ads.

It is unclear whether the ads will eventually be released publicly. Several lawmakers — including Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence

panel — have said they believe the American public should see them.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced Sept. 21 that the company would provide the ads to Congress and also make changes to ensure the political ads on its platform are more transparent. The company is also working with Special Counsel Bob Mueller's investigation into the Russian meddling at the Justice Department.

"As a general rule, we are limited in what we can discuss publicly about law enforcement investigations, so we may not always be able to share our findings publicly," Zuckerberg said. "But we support Congress in deciding how to best use this information to inform the public, and we expect the government to publish its findings when their

investigation is complete."

Facebook said the ads addressed social and political issues and ran in the United States between 2015 and 2017. The company said the ads appear to have come from accounts associated with a Russian entity called the Internet Research Agency.

Twitter said last week that it had suspended 22 accounts corresponding to the 450 Facebook accounts that were likely operated out of Russia.

Warner criticized Twitter for not sharing more information with Congress, saying the company's findings were merely "derivative" of Facebook's work. The company's presentations to staff last week "showed an enormous lack of understanding from the Twitter team of how serious this issue is, the threat it poses to democratic institutions."

Nation

Cold War radiation testing in US widespread, author claims

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Three members of Congress are demanding answers after a St. Louis scholar's new book revealed details of how the U.S. government sprayed, injected and fed radiation and other dangerous materials to countless people in secret Cold War-era testing.

The health ramifications of the tests are unknown. Lisa Martino-Taylor, an associate professor of sociology at St. Louis who wrote "Behind the Fog: How the U.S. Cold War Radiological Weapons Program Exposed Innocent Americans," acknowledged that tracing diseases like cancer to specific causes is difficult.

But three congressmen who represent areas where testing occurred — Democrats William Lacy Clay of Missouri, Brad Sherman of California and Jim Cooper of Tennessee — said they were outraged by the revelations.

Martino-Taylor used Freedom of Information Act requests to obtain previously unreleased documents, including Army records. She also reviewed already public records and published articles. She told The Associated Press that she found that a small group of researchers, aided by leading academic institutions, worked to develop radiological weapons and later "combination weapons" using radioactive materials along with chemical or biological weapons.

Her book, published in August, was a follow-up to her 2012 dissertation that found the government conducted secret testing of zinc cadmium sulfide in a poor area of St. Louis in the 1950s and 1960s. The book focuses on the mid-



AP
In this Sept. 5, 2017, photo, sociologist Lisa Martino-Taylor poses for a photo in her office in Kirkwood, Mo.

1940s to the mid-1960s.

An Army spokeswoman declined comment, but Martino-Taylor's 2012 report on testing in St. Louis was troubling enough to spur an Army investigation. The investigation found no evidence that the St. Louis testing posed a health threat.

Martino-Taylor said the offensive radiological weapons program was a top priority for the government. Unknowning people at places across the U.S. as well as parts of England and Canada were subjected to potentially deadly material through open-air spraying, ingestion and injection, Martino-Taylor said.

"They targeted the most vulnerable in society in most cases," Martino-Taylor said. "They targeted children. They

targeted pregnant women in Nashville. People who were ill in hospitals. They targeted wards of the state. And they targeted minority populations."

The tests in Nashville in the late 1940s involved giving 820 poor and pregnant white women a mixture during their first pre-natal visit that included radioactive iron, Martino-Taylor

said. The women were chosen without their knowledge. Blood tests were performed to determine how much radioactive iron had been absorbed by the mother, and the babies' blood was tested at birth. Similar tests were performed in Chicago and San Francisco, Martino-Taylor said.

Cooper's office plans to

seek more information from the Army Legislative Liaison, said spokesman Chris Carroll.

"We are asking for details on the Pentagon's role, along with any cooperation by research institutions and other organizations," Carroll said. "These revelations are shocking, disturbing and painful."

In California, investigators

created a radiation field inside a building at North Hollywood High School during a weekend in the fall of 1961, Martino-Taylor said. Similar testing was performed at the University of California, Los Angeles and at a Los Angeles Police Department building.

Sherman said he wants a survey of people who graduated from the school around the time of the testing to see if there was a higher incidence of illness, including cancer. He also said he will seek more information from the Department of Energy.

"What an incredibly stupid, reckless thing to do," said Sherman, whose district includes North Hollywood High School.

Among those who recall the testing is Mary Helen Brindell, 73. She was playing baseball in a St. Louis street in the mid-1950s when a squadron of green planes flew so low overhead that she could see the face of the lead pilot. Suddenly, the children were covered in a fine powdery substance that stuck to skin moistened by summer sweat.

Trump attends golf tournament, defends hurricane response

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—President Donald Trump spent Sunday afternoon attending a high-profile golf tournament, signaling that he will not be cowed by critics of his response to Hurricane Maria.

Earlier Sunday, Trump had scoffed at "politically motivated ingrates" who had ques-

tioned his administration's commitment to rebuilding Puerto Rico after the pulverizing storm and assured Americans there had been "tremendous progress."

The remarks, in tweets and from the manicured green, demonstrated Trump's defiance in the face of charges that

he has been distracted and his administration slow to respond to the U.S. territory's struggle to restore power and basic services in the two weeks after the storm. Neither those charges, nor his past criticism of his predecessor for golfing during a crisis, kept him from attending The Presidents Cup.

After staying Saturday at his own New Jersey golf club, Trump traveled Sunday to Jersey City, where he spent the afternoon in the hospitality suite perched above the Liberty National Golf Club's 14th hole. He was on hand to present the tournament's trophy to Team U.S.A., which he dedicated to the people of Puerto Rico, Texas and Florida still recovering from hurricane devastation.

"I want to just remember them and we're going to dedicate this trophy to all of those people that went through so much, that we love," he said, adding of Puerto Rico: "We have it under really great control."

As Trump spoke, someone in the crowd accused him of not caring about Puerto Rico, using a vulgarism to make the point.

Returning to the White

House, Trump told reporters Sunday evening: "We're doing really well on Puerto Rico. I'll be going there on Tuesday. Tremendous progress being made. We're getting the roads open, we're getting a lot of things done — really at a record clip. So we're very happy with that."

Trump spent years hammering his predecessor, Barack Obama, both for playing golf and leaving Washington too often.

"President Obama should have gone to Louisiana days ago, instead of golfing," he tweeted in August of last year, after severe flooding in the state. "Too little, too late!"

In 2014, Obama was criticized for playing golf right after speaking to reporters about the execution of journalist James Foley by Islamic State militants. And President George W. Bush was faulted for not immediately returning to Washington from his Crawford, Texas, ranch after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans.

White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said the president had committed to attending the golf tournament "many months ago."

San Juan mayor in hurricane spotlight after Trump tweets

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—In Puerto Rico's hurricane-ravaged capital, it seems Carmen Yulin Cruz is everywhere these days: handing out bags of ice, wading through chest-deep floodwaters, hugging people in need of comfort.

Cruz has long won attention across the island for her hands-on style of leadership in San Juan. But this week she rose to international prominence as a target of Twitter attacks by U.S. President Donald Trump—including one tweet Sunday calling her and others "politically motivated ingrates."

The insult came hours after "Saturday Night Live" portrayed Cruz in a skit highlighting the latest controversy

for the 54-year-old former human resources executive, who occupies one of Puerto Rico's most powerful posts and has become something of a divisive figure on the island of 3.4 million residents.

Some of Puerto Rico's mayors have praised federal hurricane relief efforts, while others have joined Cruz in saying they have been insufficient and slow-moving.

In a U.S. territory whose relationship with the mainland is usually the single most prominent political issue, Cruz backs independence but is a member of the



Cruz

Popular Democratic Party, which supports maintaining the territorial status quo. A graduate of Boston University and Carnegie Mellon, she is also a former member of the island's House of Representatives.

She first grabbed headlines in 2012 when she ran against San Juan's three-term incumbent mayor, cobbling together a campaign committee in just three days after her party's original candidate dropped out. Despite being a virtual unknown for many, she cruised to a surprising win by securing the support of a coalition of left-leaning interests

from the LGBTQ community to university students to financially powerful unions.

"Imagine what I'll do when I'm the mayor of San Juan," she told reporters in August 2012, three months before the vote.

Once in office Cruz launched a million-dollar urban renewal program, renovated public parks and plazas and unionized San Juan employees as promised during her campaign. She aligned herself with Puerto Rico's large and long-marginalized Dominican minority. She also made the poor a priority, working to secure federal funds to improve conditions for thousands on an island with a nearly 45 percent poverty rate.

Asia

2 women plead not guilty in N. Korean scion's assassination

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP)—Two women accused of fatally poisoning the estranged half brother of North Korea's ruler pleaded not guilty as their trial began Monday in Malaysia's High Court, nearly eight months after the brazen airport assassination that sparked a diplomatic standoff.

Siti Aisyah of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam are suspected of smearing Kim Jong Nam's face with the banned VX nerve agent on Feb. 13 at a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur, killing him within about 20 minutes. The women say they thought they were playing a harmless prank for a hidden-camera show.

After asking for the charges to be read in their native languages, the women shook their heads when asked if they were guilty.

The two women are the only suspects in custody in a killing that South Korea's spy agency said was part of a five-year plot by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to kill a brother he reportedly never met. Police say several North Koreans suspected of involvement left the country on the day of the attack. Others who holed up inside North Korea's embassy were allowed to leave in a deal with Pyongyang to ease tensions, despite Malaysia's anger at the public use of a chemical weapon on its territory.



AP
Naran Singh, center, and Hysam Teh Poh Teik, left, lawyers for Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong, speaks to journalists at the court hearing at Shah Alam court house at Shah Alam outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Monday, Oct. 2, 2017.

Lawyers for two women, who face the death penalty if convicted, asked the court to compel prosecutors to identify four people still at large mentioned in the charge sheet as having a common intention to kill Kim.

"A fair trial must include the right to know," Gooi Soon Seng, Aisyah's lawyer, told the court. "The charge must be clear, not ambiguous."

Prosecutors will now start to call their witnesses, with the first few likely to be medical

experts to establish the cause of death. The trial is expected to last for about two months, after which the judge will decide if there is a strong case for the women to have to mount their defense, said Hysam Teh Poh Teik, Huong's lawyer.

Kim, who was 45 or 46, was the eldest son of the family that has ruled North Korea since its founding, yet he reportedly fell out of favor in 2001 when he was caught trying to enter Japan on a false passport, saying he wanted to visit Tokyo Disney-

land. He had been living abroad for years and at the time of his death was traveling on a North Korean diplomatic passport under the name "Kim Chol."

North Korea has a long history of ordering killings of people it views as threats to its regime, though Kim was not thought to be seeking influence over his younger brother. He had, however, spoken out publicly against his family's dynastic control of the reclusive, nuclear-armed nation.

Pyongyang has denied any

role in the killing and has not even acknowledged the dead man was Kim Jong Nam. It has suggested the victim died of a heart attack and accused Malaysia of working with South Korean and other

"hostile forces" in blaming Pyongyang.

The trial will be closely watched by the Indonesian and Vietnamese governments, which have hired lawyers to defend the women.

Aisyah's core defense will be that she didn't know she had poison on her hand when she smeared Kim's face and was instead the victim of an elaborate trick, her lawyer Gooi said before the trial began. The 25-year-old was at a pub in Kuala Lumpur in early January when she was recruited by a North Korean man to star in what he said were video prank shows, Gooi said.

Over the course of several days, the North Korean, who went by the name James, had Aisyah go out to malls, hotels and airports and rub oil or pepper sauce on strangers, which he would film on his phone, the lawyer said.

Trump says envoy 'wasting his time' talking to North Korea

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said Sunday that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was "wasting his time" trying to negotiate with North Korea over its nuclear and missile programs, raising speculation about whether Trump could be undermining efforts to maintain channels of communication or somehow bolstering the diplomat's hand in possible future talks.

It was not immediately clear what prompted Trump's tweets, among a series of weekend posts that ranged from hurricane recovery efforts in Puerto Rico to NFL players' allegiance to the national anthem, and at whom they were aimed: Tillerson, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, those pushing for continued diplomacy, those favoring a military response to repeated provocations.

Tillerson had acknowledged on Saturday, after meetings in Beijing with Chinese leaders, that the Trump administration was keeping open direct channels of communications with North Korea and probing the North's willingness to talk.

He provided no elaboration about those channels or

the substance of any discussions. After he left China, his spokeswoman issued a statement saying that North Korean officials "have shown no indication that they are interested in or are ready for talks regarding denuclearization."

And then Trump weighed in the next day with tweets that included his usual personal dig at Kim.

"I told Rex Tillerson, our wonderful Secretary of State, that he is wasting his time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man ... Save your energy Rex, we'll do what has to be done!"

Trump offered no further explanation, but last month he told the U.N. General Assembly that if the U.S. is "forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea."

Later, after Trump arrived at an international golf competition at a northern New Jersey course, a new tweet appeared: "Being nice to Rocket Man hasn't worked in 25 years, why would it work now? Clinton failed, Bush failed, and Obama failed. I won't fail."

To a senior Tillerson adviser, there was no ambiguity in Trump's earlier posts.

Duterte says he won't cooperate in anti-graft body's probe

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president says he will not cooperate in an investigation being done by a key anti-graft agency on his alleged undeclared wealth and warned he will personally bring one of its top officials to investigators for illegally disclosing confidential information about him.

In an expletives-laden outburst, President Rodrigo Duterte warned in a speech late Saturday of a "stalemate," as he collides with the Ombudsman, an independent state agency that investigates officials facing corruption allegations. The Ombudsman said Friday it will continue an investigation involving the president and cannot be intimidated by him.

Duterte accused the anti-graft body of using "fabricated" documents in its investigation of his alleged unexplained wealth concealed in past bank accounts and of being plagued by corruption and said he would not submit

to the Ombudsman's jurisdiction.

"I won't submit to the jurisdiction because it's a lousy thing," Duterte said. He asked Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Duterte, who told reporters last week of his agency's investigation involving Duterte, "to pray."

"Carandang, you are holding a fabricated (document), to your sorrow, you will realize that," the president said. "I can summon him because he committed a crime ... he has to answer for this or else, I will go there and bring him to the NBI."

Duterte was referring to the National Bureau of Investigation, Manila's version of the FBI.

Duterte's remarks differ from his spokesman, Ernesto Abella, who said last week that the president "respects the internal processes of the Office of the Ombudsman as an independent body and trusts its impartiality



Duterte

in the conduct of its fact-finding duty."

Duterte has denied any wrongdoing and publicly vowed to resign if anybody can prove he or any of his children were involved in corruption.

He won the presidency last year with a large margin on a vow to eradicate crime and corruption.

Duterte dared the chief of the Ombudsman and the Supreme Court chief justice, who is facing an impeachment bid by lawmakers, including the president's allies in Congress, to resign simultaneously with him.

The ABS-CBN TV network cited Carandang as saying that his agency has received Duterte's bank records from before he became president from 2006 to 2016 and that they show millions of pesos (millions of dollars) being transacted in joint accounts with his children.

Duterte's bank records were

provided by the government's Anti-Money Laundering Council, ABS-CBN quoted Carandang as saying. The council is a financial intelligence agency that safeguards the privacy of bank accounts and aims to fight money laundering.

"We can confirm that we received bank transactions from AMLC," Carandang was quoted by ABS-CBN as saying. "There were P40 millions ... P50 million ... there were many."

Duterte read a statement saying Carandang has asked the Anti-Money Laundering Council to help investigate the allegations against him but stressed that the council has not provided the bank transaction records cited by Carandang as a basis for the investigation against the president.

Still reading the unspecified document, Duterte said his alleged bank accounts' "outflows and inflows of funds were added together thus making the result total amounts wrong and misleading."

World

‘Yes’ side wins Catalonia independence vote marred by chaos

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Catalonia’s regional government declared a landslide win for the “yes” side in a disputed referendum on independence from Spain that degenerated into mayhem Sunday, with more than 800 people injured as riot police attacked peaceful protesters and unarmed civilians trying to cast their ballots.

Catalonia has “won the right to become an independent state,” Catalan president Carles Puigdemont said after the polls closed, adding that he would keep his pledge to declare independence unilaterally if the “yes” side wins.

“Today the Spanish state wrote another shameful page in its history with Catalonia,” Puigdemont added, saying he would appeal to the European Union to look into alleged human rights violations during the vote.

Catalan regional government spokesman Jordi Turull told reporters early Monday that 90 percent of the 2.26 million Catalans who voted chose the “yes” side in favor of independence. He said nearly 8 percent of voters rejected independence and the rest of the ballots were blank or void. He said 15,000 votes were still being counted.

The region has 5.3 million registered voters, and Turull



AP
An elderly lady is applauded as she celebrates after voting at a school assigned to be a polling station by the Catalan government at the Gracia neighborhood in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, 1 Oct. 2017.

By day’s end, Catalan health services said 844 civilians had been treated in hospitals for injuries, including two in serious condition and another person who was being treated for an eye injury that fit the profile of having been hit by a rubber bullet. Thirty-three police officers were also injured.

At the Pau Claris School in Barcelona, amateur footage filmed by one voter showed police roughing up unarmed people standing in their way. Amateur video from other locations showed similar tactics, with people seen being hit, kicked and thrown around by police, including elderly people with their dogs, young girls and regular citizens of all stripes. Many tried to shield themselves from being smacked on the head.

There were also some signs of provocation by activists. In footage released by the Spanish Interior Ministry, some protesters were seen throwing objects and metal barriers at riot police.

Elisa Arouca, who was waiting to vote outside the Estel school in central Barcelona, reacted with anger when national police agents yanked her and other prospective voters out of the way, then smashed open the door and confiscated the ballot boxes.

said the number of ballots didn’t include those confiscated by Spanish police during violent raids that aimed to stop the vote.

No one knows what will happen if Catalan officials follow through on their pledge to use the vote as a basis for declaring independence, a provocation that would possibly remove from Spain one of its

most prosperous regions, including the coastal city of Barcelona, the regional capital.

Hundreds of police armed with truncheons and rubber bullets were sent in from other regions to confiscate ballots and stop the voting, and amateur video showed some officers dragging people out of polling stations by the hair, throwing some down stairs, kicking them and pushing them to the ground. Anguished, frightened screams could be heard.

Police were acting on a judge’s orders to stop the referendum, which the Spanish government had declared il-

legal and unconstitutional—and Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said going forward with the vote only served to sow divisions.

In a televised address after the majority of polls closed Sunday, he thanked the Spanish police, saying they had acted with “firmness and serenity”—comments sure to anger Catalans.

Spanish Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis said the violence, while “unfortunate” and “unpleasant” was “proportionate.”

“If people insist in disregarding the law and doing something that has been consistently declared illegal and

unconstitutional, law enforcement officers need to uphold the law,” Dastis told The Associated Press in an interview.

Catalans favoring a break with Spain have long wanted more than the limited autonomy they now have, arguing that they contribute far more than they receive from the central government, which controls key areas including taxes and infrastructure. The police aggression on Sunday was likely to only fuel the passion for independence, and the main separatist group urged the regional government to declare independence after the violent crackdown.

WORLD BRIEFS

Hezbollah leader warns Israel as Shiites mark Ashoura

BEIRUT (AP)—The leader of the Shiite Lebanese militant group Hezbollah warned Israel against pushing the region into war on Sunday as supporters and other Shiite Muslims marked the Ashoura holiday with rallies, prayers, and self-flagellation. Hassan Nasrallah told observers in a televised speech that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was working with U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration to undermine the Iran nuclear deal and start a regional war. He warned Israel not to underestimate Hezbollah’s capabilities. “The current Israeli government, presided over by Netanyahu is leading its people to death and destruction,” he warned. “I can confirm that they do not have an accurate idea of what is waiting for them if they embark on this stupid war.” It was his final sermon to the customary ten days of speeches addressing religious and political matters that lead up to Ashoura.

Turkey opens military training base in Somalia capital

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—The Turkish government has opened a military training base, its largest in Africa, in the Somali capital, Mogadishu. The Turkish chief of staff Gen. Hulusi Akar and Somali Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire inaugurated the newly-constructed facility on Saturday. Khaire thanked Turkey for “unwavering” support to help Somalia rebuild its fractured army and stabilize the war-torn country. Two hundred Turkish military officers will train 10,000 Somali soldiers at the base which includes army dormitories, training grounds and prisons. Somalia’s army, including former militia, is struggling to battle the Islamic extremist al-Shabab insurgents who are fighting to establish an Islamic state under strict Shariah law. The Somali government is challenged to take over the country’s security before the scheduled withdrawal of 22,000 African Union forces late next year.

‘Lone wolf’ suspected in Canada terror attack, police chase

TORONTO (AP)—A car and knife attack on a police officer outside a football game and a high-speed chase of a moving van that left four people injured was the work of a Somali refugee who was likely working alone and was known to police for extremist ideology, Canadian authorities said Sunday.

Marlin Degrand, assistant commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, said officers took a 30-year-old man into custody in the Western Canadian city of Edmonton, Alberta.

Police declined to identify the man because he had not yet been charged, saying the pending charges included terrorism and five counts of attempted murder.

A Canadian government official identified the suspect as Abdulahi Hasan Sharif. The official agreed to reveal the name only if not quoted by name

because he was not authorized to speak publicly ahead of the police announcement.

Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht said an Islamic State group flag was found in the car that hit the officer, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called it a terror attack.

The suspect was known to both Edmonton police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Degrand said he was flagged in 2015 for extremist ideologies and police interviewed him at the time, but he said charges were not warranted after an “exhaustive investigation.”

Degrad said the suspect is a refugee from Somalia who had applied for refugee status.

“To the best of our knowledge, this was a lone wolf attack,” Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson said.

The incident took place outside a Canadian Football

League game at Edmonton’s Commonwealth Stadium on Saturday night.

Police released graphic video showing a white Chevrolet Malibu ramming into a police officer standing in front of his cruiser. The officer flies into the air and the Malibu then crashes into the police car.

The driver gets out and appears to stab the officer, who wrestles the suspect to the ground and then rises as the suspect flees on foot.

“Seeing the video is very upsetting because of the level of violence and level of intent,” Iveson said.

The Edmonton police chief said Constable Mike Chernyk, a 48-year-old who has been an officer 11 years, was released from the hospital overnight with stab wounds on face and head and abrasions on his arms.

“He was in a struggle for his life, holding on to his gun with

one hand and blocking the knife with the other,” Knecht said.

A few hours later, a U-Haul van was stopped at an impaired driving checkpoint north of downtown, on Wayne Gretzky Drive. Knecht said the name of the driver was similar to the name of the registered owner of the car that hit the officer.

He said the van then sped off toward downtown with police in pursuit. Police said the vehicle swerved at pedestrians at crosswalks throughout the chase.

Four people were hurt. Two had been released from the hospital and one was upgraded from critical to stable condition. Their injuries ranged from broken limbs to brain bleeding.

The van eventually flipped near a downtown hotel and the suspect was arrested after a Taser was employed. No shots were fired by police or the suspect.

Focus

Hurricane Maria

a reminder of 'second-class' status for some

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Xavier Totti moved to the mainland United States from his native Puerto Rico 43 years ago. He is still asked routinely if he is “legal,” and when he mails packages to relatives back home, he has to fill out an international form.

So, the 65-year-old anthropologist was not surprised by a Morning Consult-New York Times poll that showed more than half of Americans don't realize that Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory — and that its residents are U.S. citizens.

“By now, it's sort of comical, but it makes me feel second-class, like you don't belong,” said Totti, who lives in New York City.

Many Puerto Ricans share that view — a sentiment reinforced by what critics say has been a slow federal response to the humanitarian crisis that descended on Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria devastated the island.

“The response from Congress ... has been almost as if Puerto Rico did not exist,” said Jose Cruz, a political scientist at the University at Albany-State University of New York. His mother and sister live on the island.

President Donald Trump's response “has been inadequate,” Cruz said. “He should have been there last week. Puerto Rico is not a priority.”

As if to bolster that assessment, Trump fired an early-morning Twitter barrage Saturday against San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz, who

had accused

the administration Friday of “killing us with the inefficiency” since the storm.

“Such poor leadership ability by the Mayor of San Juan, and others in Puerto Rico, who are not able to get their workers to help,” Trump wrote in a series of tweets from his golf club in New Jersey. “They want everything to be done for them when it should be a community effort.”

Critics seized, in particular, on his use of the word “them.” A photograph of the mayor, chest-deep in fetid water as she used a bullhorn to call out to victims, was all over social media — as were images of Trump hitting golf balls.

“She has been working 24/7,” tweeted “Hamilton” star and creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, who is of Puerto Rican descent. “You have been GOLFING. You're going straight to hell.”

For her part, the mayor tweeted back photos of herself talking with rescue workers, wading through floodwaters and comforting an elderly woman.

“The goal is one: saving lives,” Mayor Cruz wrote. “This is the time to show our ‘true colors.’ We cannot be distracted by anything else.”

The president is slated to visit the island on Tuesday. On Friday, Trump

pledged to help Puerto Ricans in the recovery, saying the island “is totally unable” to handle the catastrophe and adding that things are going “as you know, really well.”

“We've made tremendous strides,” Trump said. “We have to rebuild. If you look at it, the electric is gone, roads are gone, telecommunications is gone. The real question is what is going to happen later.”

Trump announced the visit after being criticized for going days without tweeting about the Puerto Rican crisis. When he did mention it on Monday, he referred to the island's “broken infrastructure & massive debt,” its old electrical grid being “in terrible shape” and “billions of dollars owed to Wall Street and the banks which, sadly, must be dealt with.”

FEMA, the agency heading relief efforts, has sent at least 150 containers filled with relief supplies to the port of San Juan since the storm struck. Earlier this week, White House Press Secretary Sarah

Huckabee Sanders said 10,000 government workers are on the ground helping Puerto Rico recover.

Rep. Nydia Velazquez, a New York Democrat who was born in Puerto Rico, said earlier this week that she was “offended and insulted” by Trump's tweet. She and other members drew parallels between the federal government's responses to Maria and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in 2005.

“This is Katrina 2017. Let there be no misunderstanding about that,” Illinois Democrat Luis Guterres said Wednesday.

Last week, Trump cleared the way for more supplies and funds to get into Puerto Rico by lifting for 10 days the federal restrictions on foreign ships delivering cargo — a period that some Latino members of Congress argued should last at least a year.

Puerto Ricans have been recognized as U.S. citizens for a century. A majority of them — roughly 5 million — live in the United States, while an estimated 3.4 million live on the island. Puerto Ricans living on the mainland can vote for president in the general election every four years, yet residents of the island cannot, nor do they have voting representation in Congress.

Latino members of Congress have been among the most vocal and outraged over what they have called

a delayed

response. Eight lawmakers, many of them Latino, sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security, linking Puerto Rico's current crisis to larger problems with federal oversight. They urged the agency to relax shipping restrictions for a longer period of time, and asked that Puerto Rico not be held responsible for sharing recovery costs under normal federal rules.

“The people of Puerto Rico have long been denied the same benefits provided to other American citizens,” the letter read. “Today, the stakes are just too high.”

Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico on Sept. 20 as a Category 4 storm, the strongest to hit the island in a century. At least 16 people have died. Nearly everyone on the island was left without power and most are without water.

Hurricane Katrina made landfall in August 2005, leaving more than 1,800 people dead, and causing damage estimated at more than \$175 billion. Then-President George W. Bush was criticized for what some saw as a slow federal response to the humanitarian crisis in New Orleans that followed the natural disaster.

Florida Democrat Darren Soto referenced the prior storm in urging Trump to visit sooner. “Don't let this be another Katrina,” the congressman said.

“The people of Puerto Rico are dy-

ing,” Soto said. “They're out of food. They're out of gas. These are American citizens. They pledge allegiance to our flag. They pay taxes.”

On Friday, Cruz, the San Juan mayor, lashed out over Acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke's comment declaring the federal response “a good news story.”

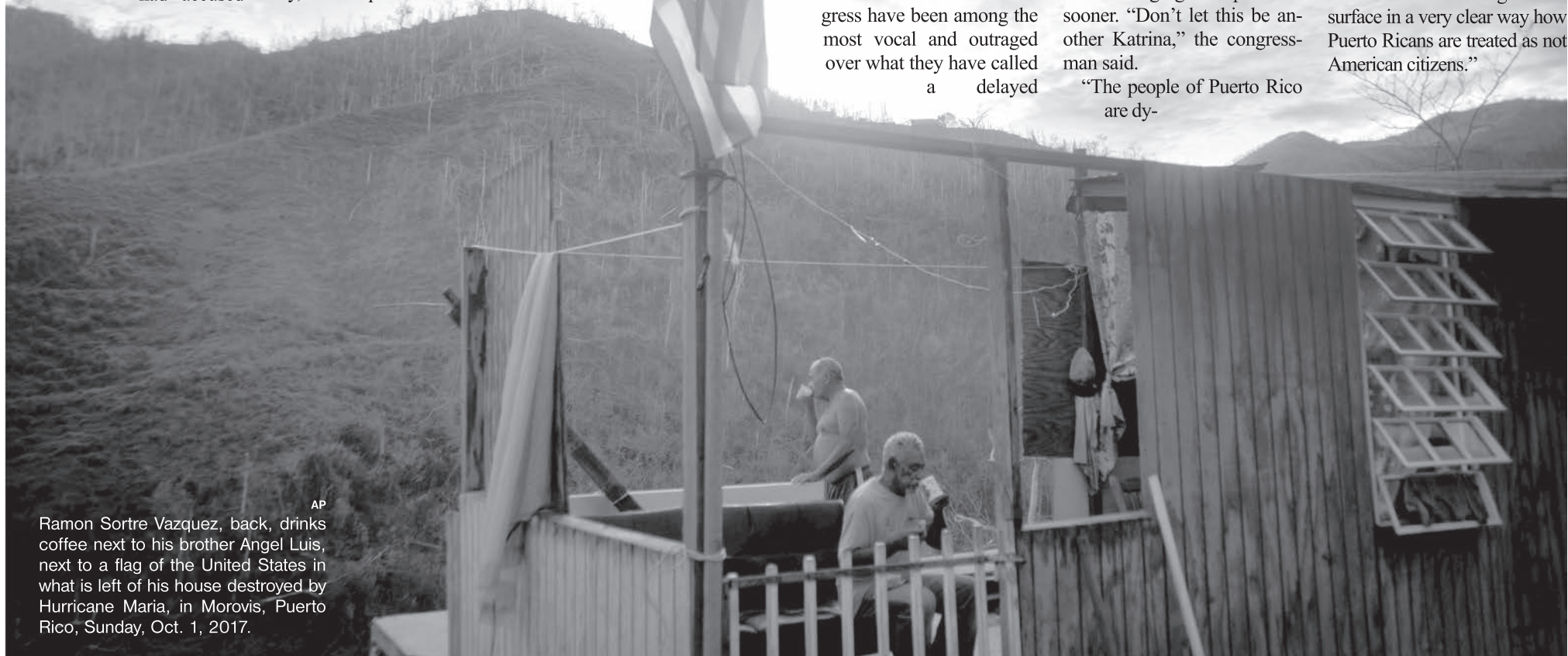
“Damn it, this is not a good news story,” Cruz told CNN. “This is a people-are-dying story.”

On Thursday, Huckabee Sanders said that Trump is actively monitoring recovery efforts and that the “full weight” of the federal government is engaged to get food, water, health care and other resources to people in need.

“Our message to the incredible people of Puerto Rico is this: The President is behind you,” Sanders said. “We all are — the entire country. ... We will not let you down.”

Carmen Febo San Miguel, a doctor in Philadelphia and executive director of Taller Puer-torriqueno, said she followed media coverage of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria over the past month, including a telethon for victims of Harvey that raised millions of dollars, and wondered where such efforts were for her home.

“If Puerto Rico was a state in the United States, the response would be very different,” said Febo San Miguel, whose organization uses art to promote development within the Philadelphia Latino community. “We are compatriots. This situation has brought to the surface in a very clear way how Puerto Ricans are treated as not American citizens.”



AP
Ramon Sortre Vazquez, back, drinks coffee next to his brother Angel Luis, next to a flag of the United States in what is left of his house destroyed by Hurricane Maria, in Morovis, Puerto Rico, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017.

Overdrive

AUTOREVIEW:

2017 Porsche Panamera is quick and nice for a steep price

By **ROBERT DUFFER**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The 2017 Porsche Panamera is like a pair of nice but overpriced shoes. Once you stop considering all the other things that could have and maybe should have been bought with the same amount of money, it becomes more and more pleasurable.

Porsche expects this of its customers, and while the Audi RS7 or the Tesla Model S P100D may provide more bang for not as much bucks (the Cadillac CTS-V is by far the best value of the large performance sedans), the Porsche brand is more revered as the pedigree for performance. So \$133,000 might not seem so out of line from a brand that fetches about \$120,000 for its often imitated, never duplicated sports coupe known as the 911.

While the Cayenne and Macan felt like crossover derivatives of the automotive world's most recognizable icon, the first incarnation of the Panamera for 2010 looked like something else altogether. With its bulbous rear and hunchback roofline, Panamera looked more like an experiment than an extension of the 911 into four doors and four full seats.

This new shoe is a much better fit. It's only an inch longer but in shortening the overhangs and stretching the wheelbase, and with the roofline curving more fluidly into the rear, it better harmonizes with the 911.

The new 2.9-liter twin-turbo V-6 engine also supports the proposition in the 4S. It's responsive without surging or lagging, and due to the compressed layout of the turbochargers as well as some magical action in the variable valve timing, the 440-horsepower engine is efficient under light loads and beastly under full throttle. It doesn't feel like a sports car when you don't want it to, instead cruising comfortably and quietly like a luxury sedan. Mash the pedal, though, and 405 pound-feet of low-end torque comes with no lag and plenty

of warble as it hits 60 mph in 4 seconds (4.2 seconds without the sport chrono package). That's 0.3 seconds faster than the old model. The \$6,930 sport chrono package features launch control, which literally took our breath away. Switch the controller on the steering wheel to sport plus mode, mash the brake, rev the engine for a second or two so there's full torque, then let off the brake and hold on. The rocketing sensation is like the Tesla Model S but with engine noise.

The engine is mated to Porsche's first-ever eight-speed PDK transmission, a dual-clutch setup derived from Porsche's racing series and known for really quick shifts while maintaining relatively high rpm. But the eighth gear, much like its seventh-gear predecessor, is meant for greater fuel efficiency during highway cruising; sixth gear is the highest gear when hammering it up to a top speed of 179 mph, 2 mph faster than the old one.

All of this complex engineering means more performance and greater efficiency; the 21 mpg city rating is 3 mpg greater than the outgoing model.

Inside, the cockpit has been streamlined so there are fewer buttons in the console, and a wider, more integrated touch screen. The touch screen is an improvement but the safety of a tabletlike interface in these distracted-driving times is questionable. Narrow buttons with drop-down menus on the left open as your hand approaches the screen, which is nice, but the icons are too small. The split-screen backup camera and map displays are really sharp, and the customizable tiles on the home screen are worth customizing so you can leave everything else alone. The learning curve is steep with the Germans; Audi is easiest, then Mercedes-Benz, then BMW and Porsche.

It gets better in the mostly digital instrument display. The analog tachometer is flanked by two 7-inch screens. On the left side is the car's drive



The 2017 Porsche Panamera 4S is a full-size performance sedan powered by a 2.9-liter twin turbo V-6 mated to an 8-speed automatic transmission. The second generation sedan looks more like the 911 coupe than its predecessor.

and assist systems, showing such things as the length of the lead car in adaptive cruise

control (\$2,880), which works down to a stop; on the right is a snapshot of the key in-

gredients found in the touch screen display, from the trip odometer to the map. Steering

wheel controls limit reliance on the touch screen. The tester came with night vision assist (\$2,540), which appears in the screen on the right as a black and white shadow representation of what is in front of the car, with heat signatures of living things in color. It's cool, and meant to detect animals on the roadside obscured by night, but probably only worth it if you live in the sticks.

Inherent in the cost of any luxury item is the freedom to not give a damn. Spending over 30 percent more on options on a performance sedan that starts at \$99,900 is acknowledging that if you're going to do it, you might as well do it up right.

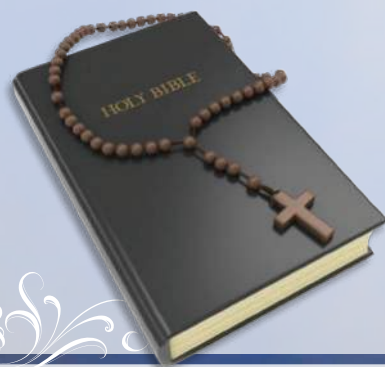
*"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,
love leaves a memory no one can steal."*

The greatest comfort during our sorrow was the expression of sympathy conveyed to us in so many ways. From our hearts to yours we extend our most heartfelt and sincerest gratitude to our many family and friends who offered their unconditional love, kindness and prayers as we endure the pain of the loss of our dearly beloved husband, father and brother;

†Allegre Twelbang Magofna "Bob"

A special thank you to Bishop Ryan Jimenez and to Reverend Father Felipe Rollan, the techa's Nicolas Palacios and Vicky Fitial and the St. Jude Thaddeus Choirs, Dr. Norma Ada and Staffs, Doctors and Nurses at CHCC and Borja Funeral Home. A most gracious and heartfelt thank you to the Saipan and Guam E. Company 442nd Infantry Family and the Matua Riders and the many family and friends who joined us at the nightly rosary and the Eucharistic Mass. No amount of words can accurately express our gratitude to all of you.

On the last day, October 6, 2017 rosary will be prayed at 7 o'clock p.m. followed by dinner at the family residence in Chalan Kiya.



With Loving Hearts and Prayers,

**Delia (Del), Angelah Rose,
Miguel "Baby Bob" and Family**

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Porsche Panamera 4S at a glance

■ Vehicle type: full-size performance sedan
■ Base price: \$99,900
■ As tested: \$132,135 (excluding \$1,050 delivery)

■ MPG: 21 city, 28 highway
■ Engine: 2.9-liter twin-turbo V-6
■ Transmission: Eight-speed PDK with AWD
■ Parting shot: Paying the price for fast and nice.

Life & Style

Was Hugh Hefner oppressor or liberator?

NEW YORK (AP)—Oppressor or liberator? Feminist in a silk robe, or pipe-smoking exploiter? Opinions were flying a day after Hugh Hefner's death over just what he did — and didn't do—for women.

On one side, there were those who saw Hefner's dressing women in bunny costumes with cottontails on their rears, or displaying them nude in his magazine with a staple in their navels, as simple subjugation of females, no matter how slick and smooth the packaging. On the other were those who felt the Playboy founder was actually at the forefront of the sexual revolution, bringing sexuality into

the mainstream and advancing the cause of feminism with his stand on social issues, especially abortion rights.

"I think it's disgusting," said feminist author Susan Brownmiller, of the praise she'd been seeing on social media since Hefner's death Wednesday at age 91. "Even some of my Facebook friends are hewing to the notion that, gee whiz, he supported abortion, he supported civil rights ... Yes he was for abortion, (because) if you convince your girlfriend to get an abortion because she got pregnant, you don't have to think about marrying her! I mean, that was his point."

Most offensive to Brownmiller was what she called Hefner's equating the word "feminist" with "anti-sex."

"It wasn't that we were opposed to a liberation of sexual morality," she said, "but the idea that he would make women into little bunnies, rabbits, with those ears ... That was the horror of it." It was Brownmiller, in fact, who confronted Hefner nearly a half-century ago on Dick Cavett's talk show, saying to his face, "Hugh Hefner is my enemy." As a startled Hefner fiddled with his pipe, she added: "The day that you are willing to come out here with a cottontail attached to

YOUR rear end..." The audience roared.

Brownmiller attributed some of the glowing tributes to Hefner in part to "an American tradition of saying nice things about the departed." For Kathy Spillar, executive editor of Ms. Magazine, the accolades were a result of something deeper: a decades-long public relations strategy of Playboy to sanitize what she called an empire devoted to the subjugation of women.

"From the beginning, they tried to sell it as women's liberation," said Spillar, who also directs the Feminist Majority Foundation. "And so they made huge outreach efforts over the years to women's rights groups." But there was nothing liberating about it, Spillar said: "Those photographs of women certainly aren't empowering of those women. They're there for the pleasure of men."

"He was right about one thing," Spillar added. "Sex sells. But it sells to men. And to put women in those horrible costumes that Gloria Steinem wrote about! Talk about sexual harassment, talk a hostile work environment." She was referring to the famous magazine expose that a young Steinem went undercover to write, training as a Playboy bunny in a New York club — bunny suit and all.

Hefner himself, obviously, saw it very differently. "The truth of the matter is the bunnies were the pre-feminist feminists," Hefner told the Associated Press in 2011. "They were the beginning, really, of independent women. The bunnies were earning more money than, in many cases, their fa-



This combination photo of images released by Playboy, shows top row from left, Marilyn Monroe on the cover of the December 1953 issue, Janet Pilgrim on July 1955, Donna Michelle on May 1964 and Turid Lundberg on June 1965. Bottom row from left, Barbi Benton on the July 1969 issue, Anna Nicole Smith on June 1993, Jenny McCarthy on January 2005 and Pamela Anderson on the January/February 2016 issue. AP

thers and their husbands. That was a revolution."

To Kathryn Leigh Scott, a former bunny at the New York club, much of what Hefner said then rings true. Scott trained at the club in January 1963, at age 19, she says, with six other bunnies, one of them Steinem. She said she had fun, and made good money. She later wrote a book, "The Bunny Years," to counter the view that Steinem portrayed in her article.

"I did not feel exploited," Scott says now. "As a matter of fact, I felt that I was exploiting Playboy — because I was earning very good money in a very safe environment, certainly safer than that many of my friends were working in at the time."

Did Hefner advance or exploit women? Scott says she can see both sides. "But when you think of what he did to support Roe v. Wade for example, and civil rights, and what I know from his treatment of me, he did a lot to

help women," she said.

In the wake of Hefner's death, many celebrities tweeted affectionate messages. "Thank you for being a revolutionary and changing so many people's lives, especially mine," wrote television personality and former Playboy model Jenny McCarthy. "We've lost a true explorer, a man who had a keen sense of the future," wrote writer-producer Norman Lear. "We learned a lot from you Mr. Hefner."

For feminist author and blogger Andi Zeisler, the main question was why Hefner was getting so much credit.

"He's getting a disproportionate amount of credit for the sexual revolution," said Zeisler, founder of the nonprofit Bitch Media. "It was a confluence of factors. He had nothing to do with the development of oral contraception, which I could argue was really the main driver of the sexual revolution where women were concerned.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF † JOAQUIN CRUZ LIZAMA

Better known as "Akin Batitang" (Akin Monica)

Born: February 12, 1938 • Died: September 26, 2017

In his new life he now joins his:

Wife: † Monica Cruz Lizama

Sons: † Martin C. Lizama, † Augustin C. Lizama, † Norbert C. Lizama

Parents: † Jose Mendiola Lizama and † Rita Cruz Lizama

Parents In-Law: † Frederico Taitingfong Cruz and † Antonia Teregeyo Cruz

Grandaughter: † Kiara Monica M. Lizama

Sisters/Brothers/Spouses/In-Laws:

† Trinidad Cepeda, † Manuel C. Lizama, † Maria L. Kaipat, † Ana C. Lizama, † Carmen L. & † Jose Torres, † Jose C. Lizama, † Benedicto C. Lizama, † Ramon C. Lizama, † Jesus Tyqueingco, † Juan M. Aguon, † Maria B. Cruz, † Ricardo Cruz, † Henrique & † Ana R. Cruz, † Rufina & † Jose Duenas, † Mariana C. Guzman († Robert Guzman), † Ana C. Arriola († Vicente Arriola), † Antonio B. Cruz

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Children/Spouses/Grandchildren/ Great Grandchildren

† Martin C. Lizama & Rita Cabrera and family
Raymond & Susan Palacios and family
Joaquin Jr. & Frances D. Lizama and family
Jenidina L. & Joaquin C. Babauta and family
Melva L. & Wayne Perry and family
Edwin & Vivian M. Lizama and daughter
Nardin & Lorenza H. Lizama and family
Audybert C. Lizama and family
Zenaída L. & Stanley S. Santos and family
Frederico & Jessica DLC Lizama and family
Claudia & Anthony K. Leon Guerrero and family
Antonia L. & Irvin DLC Songao and family
Rita Lizama & John T. Blas and family
Vanessa Cruz & family
Morendie C. & Anthony B. Aguon and family
Monica Kenya C. Lizama

Reared Children:

Frances Cruz & Joaquin Castro and family
Dennis & Colleen Cruz and family
Jerome Cruz
Genoven & Jose Tyqueingco and family
Robin & Augustin Palacios and family
Jose & Winnie Arriola and family
Rosalina & Norman Santos and family
Consolation Tereyama and family
Viliani (Pila) & Celina Stefano

Brothers/Sisters/Spouses/In-laws:

Mercedes L. Aguon and family
Jesus & Maria C. Lizama and family
Pedro C. Lizama
Ignacia L. & Hideya Osada and family
Teresita L. Tyqueingco and family
Virginia L. Lizama and family
Candelaria Jose and family
Susana C. & Isidro T. Cabrera and family
Ben C. & Susan Lizama and family
Donicio & Pat Camacho and family

Daily mass is being said at San Jose Church as scheduled:

Friday, September 29, 2017 at 6:00am

Saturday, September 30, 2017 at 6:00pm

Sunday, October 1, 2017 at 7:30am

Monday, October 2, 2017 at 6:00am (Mt. Carmel)

Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 6:00am

On Wednesday, October 4, 2017, his remains will be escorted from CHCC Chapel to San Jose Church at 7:30am followed by viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Interment Service will follow at San Jose Church. Lunch will be served at the Lizama residence in Oleai.

From the Family

'It' edges out Tom Cruise's 'American Made' to take No. 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After dipping to No. 2 last weekend, "It" has regained control of the North American box office in its fourth weekend in theaters.

The movie beat out the new Tom Cruise film "American Made" and "Kingsman: The Golden Circle." But it was a close race that could shift when studios report actual weekend totals on Monday.

According to studio estimates on Sunday, the Stephen King adaptation and box office juggernaut added \$17.3 million to take the top spot. The film now boasts \$291.2 million in domestic grosses.

"It" edged out last weekend's box office champ, "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" and newcomer "American Made," which essential-

1. "It," \$17.3 million (\$35.6 million international).
2. "American Made," \$17 million (\$3.8 million international).
3. "Kingsman: The Golden Circle," \$17 million (\$50.5 million international).
4. "The Lego Ninjago Movie," \$12 million (\$10.6 million international).
5. "Flatliners," \$6.7 million (\$3.1 million international).
6. "Battle of the Sexes," \$3.4 million.
7. "American Assassin," \$3.3 million (\$2.2 million international).
8. "Home Again," \$1.8 million (\$870,000 international).
9. "Til Death Do Us Part," \$1.5 million.
10. "mother!" \$1.5 million (\$4

million international).
Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:
1. "Kingsman: The Golden Circle," \$50.5 million.
2. "Never Say Die," \$45.6 million.
3. "It," \$35.6 million.
4. "The Foreigner," \$23.1 million.
5. "Chasing the Dragon," \$14.9 million.
6. "Sky Hunter," \$13 million.
7. "Judwaa 2," \$11.8 million.
8. "City of Rock," \$11.2 million.
9. "The Lego Ninjago Movie," \$10.6 million.
10. "Cars 3" and "The Emoji Movie," \$4.8 million.

ly tied for second with \$17 million apiece. Estimates have "American Made" tak-

ing a slight advantage, with around \$16,000 more than the "Kingsman" sequel.

OJ Simpson freed; parole official says he'll live in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Officials at a remote Nevada prison where O.J. Simpson was set free early Sunday after nine years for armed robbery arranged the former football and Hollywood star's dead-of-night departure to avoid public scrutiny.

It worked. Simpson signed release paperwork just before midnight and disappeared into the darkness minutes into the first day he was eligible for re-



lease. Through efforts by prison officials to keep the time and place secret, there were no journalists outside the prison gates to capture the moment.

Though publicity-prone in the past, Simpson apparently took the advice of people in his inner circle that he avoid the spotlight. He was neither heard from nor seen publicly, except when a person made a video recording of him in a car at a gas station on the way to Las Vegas in which he asked

to be left alone.

State Division of Parole and Probation Capt. Shawn Arruti told The Associated Press that the former football hero and celebrity criminal defendant plans to live at a home in the Las Vegas area for the foreseeable future. Arruti declined for what he said were security and privacy reasons to disclose the exact location of the house.

Simpson was released at 12:08 a.m. PDT from Lovelock Correctional Center in northern Nevada, state prisons spokeswoman Brooke Keast told AP. She said she didn't know the name of the driver who met him and took him to an undisclosed location.

AP
Former football legend O.J. Simpson signs documents at the Lovelock Correctional Center, Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017, in Lovelock, Nev.

Lil Wayne won't go through security check, skips concert

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Fans of rapper Lil Wayne will be offered refunds after he refused to pass through a security check to enter a South Carolina arena, and skipped the concert.

A statement Sunday by managers of the Colonial Life Arena in Columbia says Lil Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter Jr., refused to enter the building when security workers sought to apply "the venue's standard safety procedures." The arena's management says it wasn't willing to make an exception for the headliner of Saturday night's show "and jeopardize safety."

Tory Lanez, 2 Chainz and Cardi B performed as scheduled.

Lil Wayne's representative did not respond to an email seeking comment Sunday.

He spent eight months in a New York City jail for gun possession after police found the weapon on his tour bus as he left a 2007 concert.

DOVER, Del. (AP)—Wyclef Jean had a song named in his honor and worked with producers on his new album who were just kids when he released his debut solo album, "The Carnival."

At 47, tributes from today's hip-hop stars and a surge of young producers had Jean deciding to call it a day on "The Carnival" saga. "Carnival III: The Rise and Fall of a Refugee," is the last one under that banner.

"This is the trilogy. This is it," Jean said.

Jean's first full-length album in eight years was released Sept. 12 by Legacy Recording, and coincides with the 20-year anniversary celebration of the Grammy winning "Carnival." Jean would collaborate with Santana, cover Bob Marley and snagged a cameo from Bob Dylan over the years, a thrill for him to work with and honor some of his musical heroes. These days, hip-hop stars pay homage simply by naming a song after The Fugees co-founder.

"When I first heard the re-

Wyclef Jean enjoys 'global gumbo' in 'Carnival III' release



AP
In this Nov. 20, 2016 file photo, Haitian-American musician Wyclef Jean talks to the press upon arrival to vote during elections in the Petion-Ville suburb of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

cord (I heard) new music, Wyclef Jean. I was like, this is not my song," Jean said, laughing. "It was like, no the song's named after you."

Young Thug indeed named a song "Wyclef Jean" that included the line, "Okay, my money way longer than a

NASCAR race."

Jean, a three-time Grammy winner, wore a NASCAR jacket Sunday inside a motorhome for an interview with The Associated Press at Dover International Speedway. Jean, a NASCAR fan who is friends with former driver Brian Vick-

ers, gave the command for drivers to start their engines.

It was a short drive to the Delaware track for Jean. He still lives in New Jersey, where his family moved from Haiti when he was just a young child.

"I feel like the Haitian Bruce Springsteen," Jean said.

In an interview with the AP, Jean, talked his future, The Fugees, protests and "Carnival III," shortly before he belated to the crowd it was time to start the NASCAR race.

AP: What does the new album mean to you?

Jean: "The best way to explain this album is, it seems like a tastemakers album right now. The buzz of it is building internally and in the underground. That's a beautiful thing. It's been like nine years, I think, since the last one. I think the theme of the entire album is, I call it global gumbo. The playlist is a playlist of

unity and of culture. We could go from hip hop to gospel to salsa. I guess it's the thing that reminds us of unification through music. That's how I know that an album will be called Carnival and this will be the final chapter."

AP: The last one? Is there more music ahead?

Jean: "There was an album done before Carnival which is still not finished. That album was the winter of Stockholm when I got back from Haiti. Me and Avicii got together and the energy was so strong that we ended up doing 20, 25 songs. It's not finished yet. We were just talking about it on the phone the other day before he went to Burning Man. He was like, 'Yo, it would be a shame for the world not to hear this.' I was like, 'Yo, they're going to hear it. We've got to figure it out.' As we move to the future, there are like two albums past this Carnival."

Millionaire boyfriend proves stingy with airline rewards

DEAR ABBY: I am in a long-distance relationship with a man who lives halfway across the country. Because he's very wealthy, he arranges for all the airfare. I am a single mother and I have limited finances.

"Bruce" owns a successful business and, through his business, racks up millions of credit card points. He never pays out of pocket for any vacation expenses -- hotels, car, airfare, cruises, etc.

Because I have been flying so often to see him, I have been bumped several times from my flights and received travel credits on the airlines, which I was excited to get because now I have the ability to fly with my children somewhere.

The problem is, Bruce insists I use the vouchers only to see him since they were obtained on his points. I argued that they were my vouchers for giving up my seats. He says, yes, the seats HE "bought."

Getting airfare is absolutely no skin off his nose—he has millions of dollars and millions of points! Am I out of line here?

BUMPED IN KANSAS

DEAR BUMPED: I don't think so. However, you are getting an insight into Bruce—who appears to be unwilling to subsidize any travel that includes your children. If you haven't already noticed, that should be a big red flag if you're considering a future with this millionaire.

DEAR ABBY: My three best friends over the last four years recently decided to start a business together. They said I was more than welcome to join them, but financially I wasn't able to swing it. I work part-time, so I have been helping them when I can.

When we get together for dinner once a month, most of their conversation focuses on their business. But recently they discussed a shopping trip they took together. They went on a day I could have gone, but I was not invited. Should I take this—and other similar incidents—as a hint that our friendship has run its course?

FEELING LEFT OUT

DEAR FEELING LEFT OUT: Talking about the shopping trip in front of you was insensitive. However, you may not have been invited because your friends were afraid you might be embarrassed if you could not participate in the shopping. You mentioned that their business arrangement is recent. They may be discussing business because that's what is on their minds.

Don't write them off or withdraw just yet. You can always do that. Wait to see how things play out.

DEAR ABBY: Help! I'm a 67-year-old man being relentlessly chased by a 68-year-old woman. I have told her I want to date other women and will be moving out of the country at the

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



end of the year. Despite this, she is constantly trying to maneuver me into an exclusive relationship, probably ending in living together. I don't want to hurt her, but I'm at a loss as to how to get her to back off.

HAPPILY UNCOMMITTED

DEAR UNCOMMITTED: Here's how. Tell her you can't handle the pressure she's putting on you and end the relationship NOW.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



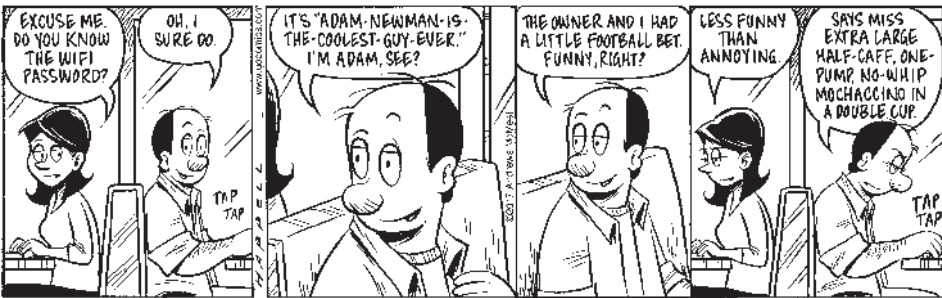
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sob

5 Medico

8 Wild party

12 Flor-
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river

13 Bond
rating

14 Hammett
pooch

15 9-to-5
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17 Calendar
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18 Greek H

19 Hosp.
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20 Posh

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22 Part of
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26 Swooned

30 "Hi,
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31 Task

32 Broad
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33 Deep-
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frank

35 Bacall's
love,
informally

36 Scrap

37 Morning
moisture

DOWN

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2 Part of
Q.E.D.

3 "May
It Be"
singer

4 Not neg.

5 Grocery
section

6 Lum-
moxes

7 Mouse
chaser

8 Building
protrusion

9 Cruising

10 Jazz great

11 "Listen!"
Getz

16 Contain

20 —
Lanka

21 "I totally
under-
stand!"

40 Timid

41 Angelic
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42 Notion

43 Honey-
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44 "Got it"

46 Trendy

47 Egos'
counter-
parts

Solution time: 22 mins.

P	A	L	A	R	C	M	A	C	S
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Yesterday's answer 10-3

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Seann William Scott, 41; Lena Headey, 44; Gwen Stefani, 48; Chubby Checker, 76.

Happy Birthday: Being responsible and living up to your promises will be essential. Show discipline, willing to follow through until you reach your goal. Change can be good, but only if you are fully prepared and have taken care of any regulations necessary to move forward. Emotional matters concerning health, family or institutions will require honesty. Your numbers are 6, 10, 22, 26, 31, 37, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let temptation lead you astray. You need to stay focused on what's important and take care of your responsibilities before you venture in another direction. Adapt to what's happening rather than implementing more changes. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look out for those less fortunate than you. Help children, seniors and the causes that you feel passionately about. Your contribution will be admired and give you the clout you need to call in support and favors. Romance is highlighted. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your responsibilities will limit what you can do to help others. A partnership will be difficult to deal with if you aren't willing to make a commitment or promise. Change can be exciting, but impulsive decisions can lead to disappointment. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for something or someone that you find inspirational. Surrounding yourself with positive energy and love will help you create a space

that keeps you calm and soothes your soul. Love and romance will enhance your life. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do your own fact-checking. Someone will lead you astray if you rely on secondhand information. Altering the way you live will give you more maneuverability to follow through with your plans. Don't let emotions lead to mistakes. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional matters will escalate if you or someone you care about hasn't been honest regarding feelings, needs and intentions. Look for creative solutions that will support yourself and others. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of business before you move on to more enjoyable pastimes. Use your intelligence to keep the peace while convincing others to see things your way. A personal change will provide you with an opportunity to improve your living arrangements. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look for unique ways to make your environment more comforting and inspirational. Surround yourself with objects and individuals that motivate you to carry on until you reach your goal. Physical improvements are encouraged and romance is highlighted. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional mix-ups will lead to uncertainty if you aren't clear about your intentions or don't live up to your promises. Try to be as precise as possible to avoid confrontation. Take better care of your health. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will have to be creative when it comes to negotiations, investing and legal matters. Consider the type of incentive you can offer in order to get what you want and not go over budget. Drive a hard bargain. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be fooled by insincere gestures of friendliness. Someone will take advantage of you if you don't speak up and set boundaries. Discipline and thoroughness will help you achieve the goals you set and the success you deserve. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Demands will be made, and it's up to you to limit anyone who is being too aggressive. Only offer to do what you can handle. Take care of yourself and your loved ones first and foremost. Physical improvements will lead to compliments. ***

Birthday Baby: You are original, intuitive and mysterious. You are energetic and ambitious. To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	4			9		7			
6				8	4				1
		9							5
		1		2	6		7		
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		4		3			5		

Difficulty Level ★★

10/33

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS Solution: 14 letters

P N N S T R E T C H E I G H T
M O O D E E P S R E L A X H S
U I L L R E T E A M E E T S T
J T H F Y E M W A L K I N G S
E I T A P M C H A L L E N G E
L T A T A T P O T A O S I N T
P E T H S T U I R B N T O I N
I P N L U I H P C D G N J N O
R M E E C A N R T N S I U N C
T O P T O U T D O O R R M U O
E C A E F T H T O W H P P R M
G H C A O C A L O O I S I U P
R T E E F B S E C A R N N L E
A C H I E V E N S S A R G E T
T I P D N A S T A D I U M S E

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Achieve, Athlete, Ball, Baton, Challenge, Coach, Compete, Competition, Contests, Feet, Flop, Focus, Grass, Hammer, Height, Indoor, Join, Jumping, Long, Meets, Olympic, Outdoor, Pace, Pentathlon, Races, Records, Relax, Rules, Running, Sandpit, Shot Put, Speed, Sprints, Stadium, Stretch, Target, Team, Throwing, Triple Jump, Walking

Yesterday's Answer: Overhang

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Program Officer

Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is inviting dynamic, motivated, and self-driven individuals with strong interest in the humanities to submit an employment application for the position of Program Officer.

The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited post-secondary institution. The salary range is from \$35,000 to \$40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2017. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

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Astros beat Red Sox in AL division series preview



BOSTON
(AP)—Jose

Altuve coasted to his third AL batting title despite going hitless in two at-bats, and the Astros scored four times in the seventh inning to rally from a three-run deficit and beat the Red Sox, 4-3, in a preview of their AL Division Series matchup.

"This is the first time I've won a batting title and the team's going to go to the playoffs," said Altuve, who is also among the favorites for the AL MVP.

"I think every single player in the big leagues, after they win a World Series, would like to win an MVP. That would make me really proud. But to me we're still in the middle of the season and haven't done what we want to do."

The Astros posted their best record since earning 102 victories in 1998, winning the division by 21 games over the second-place Los Angeles Angels. The best-of-five ALDS against Boston begins Thursday in Houston.

Altuve finished the season with a .346 average to easily win the batting title over Avasail Garcia of the Chicago White Sox; Colorado's Charlie Blackmon was the best in the NL, at .331.

"He's just been consistent," Astros starter Collin McHugh (5-2) said. "He's as consistent a player as there is in major league baseball."

Braves 8, Marlins 5

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton came up short in his quest for 60 home runs, and Adonis Garcia hit a pinch-hit three-run home run to lift the Atlanta Braves over the Miami Marlins.

Stanton finished with ML-best of 59 home runs and 132 RBI. His final chance at No. 60 came in the ninth, and the crowd



Houston Astros' Tony Kemp makes the catch on the fly out by Boston Red Sox's Sam Travis during the second inning of a baseball game in Boston, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017.

of 25,222 saluted him with a long ovation after he struck out swinging. He then came out for a curtain call, followed by hugs from teammates.

It was the final game of Jeffrey Loria's 16-year tenure as Marlins owner, one where the team won the 2003 World Series and didn't make the playoffs again.

Phillies 11, Mets 0

In Philadelphia, Pete Mackanin ended his tenure as Phillies manager with a win, while Terry Collins left the Mets with a loss.

Maikel Franco hit a three-run homer in a six-run fourth inning in Philadelphia's season-ending 11-0 rout.

At 68 the oldest manager in the major leagues, Collins said after the game he is stepping down after seven seasons, the longest tenure in Mets history.

Indians 3, White Sox 1

In Cleveland, Jay Bruce had

a two-run single, Josh Tomlin pitched into the sixth inning and the Indians got their AL-best 102nd victory, beating the White Sox.

Cleveland will next play an AL Division Series against the winner of the wild-card game between the Yankees and Twins. The 102 victories were the second most in franchise history behind the 1954 team's 111.

Jose Ramirez went 2 for 2, including his AL-high 56th double, and Carlos Santana had a sacrifice fly for the Indians.

Dodgers 6, Rockies 3

In Denver, Corey Seager had three hits to break out of a funk and the Dodgers headed into the postseason on a high note, holding off the playoff-bound Rockies.

At 104-58, the Dodgers finished tied for the second-most wins in franchise history with the 1942 squad (104-50) in Brooklyn. The '53 team went

105-49.

Colorado wrapped up the regular season 87-75 for its best mark since 2009.

Diamondbacks 14, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Eric Hosmer, Mike Moustakas, Lorenzo Cain and Alcides Escobar tipped their caps and likely said goodbye to Kansas City's fans, and then the playoff-bound Diamondbacks ended the regular season with a win over the Royals.

The foursome joined the Royals in 2011 and keyed the team's run into consecutive World Series, including a championship in 2015. They are all eligible for free agency after the season.

Giants 5, Padres 4

In San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval hit a game-ending solo homer with one out in the ninth inning, lifting the Giants over the Padres.

Cueto had a rocky outing on the last day of the season, allowing four runs and 12 hits in five innings. Cueto can opt out of the \$130 million, six-year contract he signed before the 2016 season and become a free agent.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Aaron Wilkerson took a perfect game into the sixth inning, Brett Phillips hit a three-run homer and the Brewers closed out their near-miss of a season with a victory over the Cardinals.

Jesus Aguilar added a two-run homer in the eighth for the Brewers, who finished 86-76, 13 games ahead of last year's pace. They were in first place or tied for the top spot in the NL Central for 65 days, but ultimately they were eliminated from wild-card contention with a loss on Saturday.

Reds 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Anthony Rizzo and Kris Bryant each had a light day of work as the Cubs prepared for the playoffs by playing much of their roster during a loss to Deck McGuire and the Reds.

Most of Chicago's starting lineup was gone by the fifth inning. Rizzo flied out leading off the first, and then was replaced in the field by Taylor Davis. Bryant and shortstop Addison Russell were pulled after the NL Central champion Cubs batted in the fourth.

Athletics 5, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Daniel Mengden struck out eight, Khris Davis hit his career-best 43rd homer and the last-place Athletics ended the season with a win at Texas.

The Athletics (75-87) finished at the bottom of the AL West for the third consecutive

season, a franchise first, but won six more games than last season thanks to 17 victories in their last 24 games.

Blue Jays 2, Yankees 1

In New York, Jose Bautista singled off the wall and hit a sacrifice fly in what was probably his final game with Toronto, and the Blue Jays edged the playoff-bound Yankees.

Matt Holliday homered for the Yankees in a tuneup for the AL wild-card game Tuesday night at home against Minnesota. The winner faces AL Central champion Cleveland in a best-of-five Division Series beginning Thursday.

Angels 6, Mariners 2

In Anaheim, Parker Bridwell pitched seven scoreless innings in a duel with James Paxton, Eric Young Jr. hit a three-run homer and the Angels beat the Mariners

Paxton shut out Los Angeles for six innings, but Young homered off James Pazos during a six-run seventh inning.

Bridwell (10-3) allowed three hits and a walk while striking out three. Acquired in a trade with Baltimore in April, Bridwell finished the year with a 3.64 ERA.

Twins 5, Tigers 1

In Minneapolis, Bartolo Colon made a final bid to be included in Minnesota's postseason rotation, pitching one-run ball into the seventh inning to lead the Twins to a victory over the Tigers.

Jason Castro homered and drove in three runs for the Twins, who play an AL wild-card game in New York against the Yankees on Tuesday night.

Rays 6, Orioles 0

In St. Petersburg, Blake Snell struck out a career-high 13 in seven innings and the Rays beat the Orioles.

The Rays won their last four games to finish at 80-82, a 12-game improvement over last season.

Snell (5-7) struck eight of the first 12 Orioles before Trey Mancini led off the fifth with a clean single up the middle for Baltimore's first hit.

Pirates 11, Nationals 8

In Washington, Gio Gonzalez gave up five runs in the first inning of yet another concerning outing for a Nationals starting pitcher, and the NL East champions wrapped up the regular season with a loss to the Pirates.

Gonzalez (15-9) needed 39 pitches across 16 arduous minutes to record the game's first three outs, while his ERA rose from 2.75 to 2.96 just in that opening inning.

Americans at their best at Presidents Cup

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—President Donald Trump looked over at an American team that never had it so easy in the Presidents Cup and delivered an unassailable message in fewer than 140 characters.

"I have to say our Team USA, wow. Did you play well," Trump said.

The Americans were never better.

They didn't become the first team to win all five sessions, the only source of motivation on Sunday. They didn't win by the widest margin since these matches against the International team began in 1994.

So powerful was this U.S. team that it needed to do little more than show up.

Daniel Berger, one of five newcomers to the American team, delivered the decisive point in the fourth of 12th singles matches. Phil Mickelson, a part of 23 consecutive team events, won the final point in his 100th career singles match.

The score was 19-11, and it could have been worse.

"Honestly, it was really weird being out there today, knowing there was no chance of losing," Dustin Johnson who halved his match on the final hole to miss out on a 5-0 mark at Liberty National. "I don't know how to explain it, but it was like playing golf with my buddies. We were

going to win no matter what."

Two years after the Presidents Cup came down to the final two matches in South Korea, this one nearly ended on Saturday.

"This is a juggernaut of a U.S. team," said

Nick Price, in his third and final stint of the International captain, all of them losses. "They're an overpowering team that played some phenomenal golf. It was tough to watch, especially being on the receiving end."

The Americans won for the seventh time, and the eight-point margin was their widest since 2000 at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Virginia.

The only suspense was the

trophy presentation.

Trump was the first sitting president to attend the final day of matches, and he stuck around to hand out the cup.

"I thought it was a great thrill," Stricker said. "I thought it was a great opportunity for us to be with him. And this tournament is about respecting the office, respecting the president of the United States, and whether your views may be one way versus another, that wasn't what it was about out there on the green. It was about us getting together as a team, playing for one another, playing for the USA and it was a great thrill for all of us to get the trophy handed to us from him."

Inside the ropes, it was all about domination.



Panthers stun Patriots on Gram Gano's FG



FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Graham Gano hit a 48-yard field goal as time expired, and the Carolina Panthers stunned the New England Patriots 33-30 on Sunday.

The winner served as redemption for Gano, who missed an extra point in the third quarter.

It was the second home loss this season for the usually unbeatable Patriots at Gillette Stadium. The defeat marked just the second time since 2012 that Tom Brady has lost two home starts within a season.

Cam Newton threw for three touchdowns and ran for another. Jonathan Stewart rushed 14 times for 68 yards to pass DeAngelo Williams and become the franchise's all-time leading rusher.

Newton finished 22 of 29 for 316 yards and an interception, picking apart a New England defense that was giving up an NFL-worst 461 yards and 31.7 points per game. The Patriots (2-2) forced a pair of turnovers, but had trouble containing Newton's stable of targets.

Carolina (3-1) finished with 444 total yards, marking the fourth straight game the Patriots have given up at least 300 yards.

Brady finished 32 of 45 for 307 yards and two scores.

This marks just the fifth time that Carolina has started 2-0 on the road. Two of those previous times, 2015 and 2003, they went on to reach the Super Bowl.

Newton scored his 50th touchdown rushing, the only quarterback in NFL history to do so. He pumped his fist to "signify Black Power" after his rushing touchdown, a gesture he said he decided to do to show the joy he has when he plays.

It came on a day when several NFL players chose to abandon taking a knee during the national anthem.

"I pray every night for God to give me a pinnacle to give people hope," Newton said. "I did it ... to show black pride because I am African-American. But more or less, I want all people to just see when I play I want them to see the joy that I go out there and play with. Win, lose or draw it was a great win for us today."

While the Panthers felt they discovered something about themselves, the Patriots suddenly have two losses in the first four weeks of the season. Both at home.

The offense has scored at least 30 points in three of New England's four games. But the defense has struggled, having surrendered 30 points or more



three times already.

What's mystifying is how many of the Patriots' mistakes have been self-inflicted. They had seven penalties for 55 yards on Sunday, including two penalties on Carolina's winning drive.

Issues aside, tight end Rob Gronkowski said it's nothing that can't be turned around, even if the offensive numbers they are putting up aren't enough right now.

"We always have a sense of urgency here," he said. "We always want to go out as an offense and put up points. ... But you gotta be patient, too. You gotta be patient at times. You gotta keep putting the work in. Keep on grinding, keep on coming together as a team and get better."

Broncos 16, Raiders 10

In Denver, the Broncos throttled running back Marshawn Lynch and sent quarterback Derek Carr to the sideline with a back injury, then sealed their win on safety Justin Simmons' interception of EJ Manuel at the Denver 8 in the closing minutes.

Despite holding Lynch to 12 yards on nine carries, the Broncos found themselves in danger of frittering away an AFC West showdown they had dominated. Trailing by six, Manuel heaved a high toss to Amari Cooper just after the two-minute warning.

Seahawks 46, Colts 18

In Seattle, J.D. McKissic took the second carry of his career 30 yards for a touchdown and Bobby Wagner scooped up Marcus Smith's forced fumble and rumbled 21 yards for a score in a 13-second span late in the third quarter, and Seattle beat Indianapolis.

Justin Coleman added a 28-

yard interception return for a TD in the first half and Seattle overcame a sleepy first 30 minutes from its offense.

Cardinals 18, 49ers 12, OT

In Glendale, Carson Palmer threw 19 yards to Larry Fitzgerald with 32 seconds left in overtime for the game's only touchdown. The scoring had been limited to nine field goals on an ugly afternoon in the desert before Palmer directed a seven-play, 75-yard drive with 1:52 to play.

Fitzgerald, who had three catches for 13 yards before the winning grab, rose to catch the ball under tight coverage by Rashard Robinson.

Eagles 26, Chargers 24

In Carson, Carson Wentz passed for 242 yards, LeGarrette Blount rushed for 136 and the Eagles extended their promising start to the season.

Rookie Jake Elliott kicked four field goals for the Eagles (3-1), who had thousands of roaring fans in the Chargers' temporary stadium while they hung on to win on the road for the second time in 10 tries.

Buccaneers 25, Giants 23

In Tampa Bay, Jameis Winston threw for 332 and three touchdowns without an interception, and Nick Folk kicked a 34-yard field goal as time expired.

Folk redeemed himself after missing two field goals and an extra point earlier in the day, booting the winner after Winston answered Eli Manning's second TD pass of the day with an impressive drive that began at his 25.

Rams 35, Cowboys 30

In Arlington, Todd Gurley scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 53-yard catch-and-

run, and Greg Zuerlein kicked a career-high seven field goals.

Gurley finished with 215 total yards—121 rushing and 94 receiving—as the Rams overcame two first-half touchdowns from Ezekiel Elliott the day before a federal appeals court hearing related to the star Dallas running back's blocked six-game suspension over a domestic incident in Ohio.

Bills 23, Falcons 17

In Atlanta, Stephen Hauschka kicked a tiebreaking, 56-yard field goal with less than five minutes remaining and the Buffalo Bills made a last-minute defensive stand.

The Falcons lost star wide receiver Julio Jones to a hip injury and also saw fellow WR Mohamed Sanu (hamstring) leave the game.

Hauschka padded the lead with a 55-yarder with about three minutes remaining.

Steelers 26, Ravens 9

In Baltimore, Le'Veon Bell rushed for 144 yards and two touchdowns to seize first place in the AFC North.

Though held to a touchdown over the final 30 minutes, Pittsburgh (3-1) mounted enough of an attack before halftime to earn its first win in Baltimore since 2012. Ben Roethlisberger went 18 for 30 for 216 yards and a touchdown. Bell did more than his share, carrying the ball 35 times to help the Steelers amass 381 yards on offense.

Texans 57, Titans 14

In Houston, rookie Deshaun Watson threw for four touchdowns and ran for another as the Texans scored the most points in franchise history.

Watson, the 12th pick in this year's draft, became the first rookie to throw four touch-

downs and run for another one since Fran Tarkenton in 1961, and tied an NFL record for most TDs by a rookie quarterback.

The Texans (2-2) outdid their previous highest point total of 45 set in a victory over the Titans in 2014 and are the first NFL team to score 50 points since the Jaguars scored 51 in December 2015.

Lions 14, Vikings 7

In Minneapolis, Anthony Zettel led a ferocious performance by Detroit's defense with two sacks, four hurries and a fumble recovery, as the Lions forced three turnovers while holding Minnesota scoreless in the second half.

The Lions turned two fumbles lost by the Vikings in the third quarter into 11 points, taking the lead on Ameer Abdullah's 1-yard touchdown run five plays after rookie Dalvin Cook fumbled at the Minnesota 29.

The Vikings (2-2) lost more than just possession when Cook limped off with an injury to his left knee and did not return.

Saints 20, Dolphins 0

In London, Drew Brees threw for 268 yards and two touchdowns and the Saints scored all but three of their points in the second half.

Michael Thomas had a touchdown reception in the third quarter, Alvin Kamara added one in the fourth and Will Lutz made two of his three field-goal attempts for New Orleans (2-2), which arrived for the game on Monday and won the lowest-scoring game ever held in London.

Jets 23, Jaguars 20, OT

In East Rutherford, Chandler Catanzaro kicked a 41-yard field goal with 28 seconds left

New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski (87) tries to shove away Carolina Panthers defensive back Demetrious Cox (36) after catching a pass during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, in Foxborough, Mass.

in overtime, lifting the Jets to a wacky win.

After Catanzaro split the uprights, he and his teammates celebrated wildly in the middle of the field -- but then had to wait because there was a penalty flag on the field. The officials ruled there actually was no penalty on the play, giving the Jets the victory.

Bilal Powell rushed for a career-high 163 yards, including a 75-yard touchdown, and rookie Elijah McGuire had a 69-yard score and finished with 93 yards rushing as the Jets (2-2) ran all over the Jaguars (2-2).

Bengals 31, Browns 7

In Cleveland, Andy Dalton threw three of his four touchdown passes in the first half and Cincinnati's offense found the perfect opponent to work out some early season struggles.

Dalton only missed on one of 18 throws in the first half as the Bengals (1-3) built a 21-0 lead.

He connected with A.J. Green, Tyler Croft and Giovani Bernard while dissecting the young Browns (0-4), who were again plagued by mistakes and were down three defensive starters.

Dalton, the NFL's 30th-ranked QB, finished 25 of 30 for 286 yards. His second TD to Croft in the third quarter made it 31-0, and sent even some of the most die-hard Browns fans toward the First-Energy Stadium exits.

THURSDAY GAME Packers 35, Bears 14


In Green Bay, the Packers keep finding ways to win despite more key injuries.

The Chicago Bears never recovered from a miserable start by quarterback Mike Glennon.

Aaron Rodgers threw four touchdown passes, and the injury-riddled Packers converted three turnovers into scores in an eventful victory over the mistake-prone Chicago Bears.

Rodgers connected with Davante Adams and Randall Cobb on short touchdown passes to help build a 21-0 lead in the second quarter of a game delayed 45 minutes by lightning between the first two periods. The Packers overpowered the Bears down the stretch to slog out a win as intermittent rain fell at Lambeau Field.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

 There will be an interesting finish in the Fanihi B of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light League as only one win separates the 9 Eleven D' Strikers II and 6JMS Mafia II.

The Strikers II currently has a 215-145 record, while the Mafia II is at 214-146 after last week's games.

The Strikers downed the 6JMS 80 Proofer, while the Mafia II kept it close following a 12-3 crushing of the 6JMS Bandits. The 6JMS Shaka defeated the Franken Dart Crafters, 10-5, in the other featured game.

The regular season in the Fanihi B division ends this week where every win counts as the Strikers and Mafia II each face lowly opponents. The Strikers take on the Bandits (163-197), while Mafia II battles the Dart Crafters (130-230).

The Tuesday B division ends today with the league-leading 9 Eleven D' Strikers (237-123) trying to secure the title against

the Chow Time L.O.L. (173-187), while the second-running 6JMS Xecutionerz (221-139) clashes with the Chow Time Lupeyt Boyz (207-153).

The 9 Eleven Destroyer Knights (245-115) are already assured of the Chichirika C division title after enjoying a comfortable lead against the Nipa

Interesting finish in Fanihi B division

Hut Shot (207-153). The Knights close out their regular season against the Hitters tonight.

The Chow Time Parakeyu! (245-115) will meet the Jonny's Ridin'Darry (199-161) tomorrow night in the King-

fisher division. The Parakeyu! is the division champion, as the 6JMS Hit'em Up could no longer muster enough wins (206-154).

The following are results of the other games last week.

Tuesday B

- Lupeyt Boyz 12, Warriors 3
- Chambers 9, L.O.L. 6
- Xecutionerz 9, Strikers 6

Chichirika C

- Scorpions 12, Bull-It 3

- Bulls Hitters 10, Flukers 5
- Knights 10, Hut Shot 5

Kingfisher C

- Ridin'Darry 11, Dart Vaders 4
- Hit'em Up 8, Parakeyu! 7
- Redarts 8, Sunsports 7

Winslow's return starts off nicely, Heat top Hawks, 96-90



MIAMI (AP)—Justice Winslow's first game in more than nine months was a success, and that's a good sign for the Miami Heat.

Winslow had six points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots in 23 minutes, and the Heat topped the Atlanta Hawks 96-90 in the pre-season opener for both teams Sunday night.

Winslow missed most of last season because of shoulder surgery, and one of the major questions in the Heat preseason is how the No. 10 pick in the 2015 draft out of Duke will fit



Miami Heat's Justise Winslow (20) is interviewed by Terek Pierce, left, and Megan Inglis, right, of HEAT Mobile App during Media Day, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017, in Miami.

again in the Miami rotation. He was the first sub in after starting forward James Johnson got into early foul trouble, and made 3 of his 6 shots.

"You can see that there isn't any hesitation in his play or any lack of aggressiveness," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He's being who he's meant to be—a player ... contributing in a lot of different

ways."

In the other game Sunday, Toronto beat the Los Angeles Clippers 121-113 in Honolulu. It was the Clippers' first game since the deal that saw star point guard Chris Paul leave the team for Houston this summer.

Serbian guard Milos Teodosic, a 30-year-old point guard who until now has spent his entire pro career in Europe,

made his NBA debut. Teodosic missed all five of his shots, but handed out eight assists.

"He came over here for a reason—to prove that he can play and be great over here," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "We're really looking forward to it. We hope he's right."

Raptors 121, Clippers 113

All five Toronto starters scored in double figures, with Kyle Lowry leading the way with 17 points. Blake Griffin led the Clippers with a game-high 18.

CJ Miles and Serge Ibaka each had 12 points, DeMar DeRozan scored 11 and Jonas Valanciunas had 10 points and 10 rebounds in 20 minutes. ... Norman Powell scored 16 off the bench for Toronto.

Danilo Gallinari looked very good, scoring 17 points and making 10 of 12 free throws. ... Lou Williams also scored 17 for the Clippers, and Patrick Beverley—who will

likely replace Paul as the starting point guard—scored 14.

The teams meet again Tuesday in Honolulu.

Timberwolves 108, Lakers 99

Lonzo Ball's preseason debut was a struggle at times, with the Lakers' guard and No. 2 overall pick going 2 for 9 from the floor. But he had eight assists, seven rebounds and -- maybe most telling -- turned the ball over just three times in 36 minutes.

Shabazz Muhammad scored 22 points and Taj Gibson added 18 for Minnesota. Kyle Kuzma scored 19 for the Lakers.

Minnesota led by 20 at one point, even with Andrewiggins shooting 3 for 12. Karl-Anthony Towns was 4 for 9—1 for 6 from 2-point range, 3 for 3 from 3-point range.

Brandon Ingram and Larry Nance Jr. combined to shoot 5 for 22. ... The game had 50 fouls, with the Lakers committing 29 of them.

OL'ACES

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Paki 3's semis loss, while Leo Galarse led the squad with his 5 points, but missed his last four attempts. Vincent Taitano and Trevor Ogumoro were the other Paki 3's players and tallied 3 and 2 points, respectively.

In the first semis match, the Ol'Aces raced to a 6-0 lead and never looked back. Barcinas, Schmidt, and Lizama knocked in 2-point baskets each to give the Ol'Aces an early cushion against Tinian's Alpha Males. Joey Patrick San Nicolas and Peter Cepeda then countered with one field goal apiece, but Barcinas and Schmidt answered with their second 2-point shot to keep the Ol'Aces' safe distance.

At the end of the game, the

Ol'Aces' hot shooting allowed them to hit the maximum point in the tournament (21), while holding down Alpha Males to 14.

Barcinas finished with 9 points in the semis win, while Schmidt added 7. The two Ol'Aces gunners picked up where they left off in their final showdown against Almost, hitting those long shots, while Basa and Lizama also got their offensive game going.

The Ol'Aces were undefeated in the tournament, sweeping the preliminary games in Pool A after beating Almost, Rota's 4 Musketers, and Tinian's Busta. Almost finished second behind the Ol'Aces to move into the semis, while Paki 1's and Alpha Males were the Top 2 finishers in Pool B, placing ahead of Saipan's Nik Nak and Rota's Old Skool.

training at Undisputed El Cajon under Bellator MMA fighter Andy 'The Tooth' Murad for MMA and Muay Thai under Preston 'The Predator' Peters," said Ogo.

He added that having no permanent training facility is never a problem to them, as they use the whole island as their entire gym. However, they plan to build a small gym in the future.

"So, we make the best out of nothing. Where we train also depends on the weather. For example, if it rains, we train at the roundhouse. If it's dry out, we train anywhere we want," said Ogo.

He said that every MMA fight they compete in is a learning experience to all LTT members. "Representing Luta is a very big thing for the people of Rota, especially we're com-

WHITE

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cific Games Council will not allow the Games to proceed if there is any perceived danger to participants, and NMSA will never knowingly put our athletes, coaches, and officials at any risk," White said.

The CNMI will be competing in rugby 7's, athletics, weightlifting, basketball, and golf events in the Pacific Mini Games that will run from Dec. 4 to 15.

ing from a place that has nothing. We test our training and the hard work that we put in against other islands, and keep on correcting our mistakes one fight at a time. When fight time gets closer, we have other [LTT warriors] training in Guam."

Guam-based fighters from Rota like Juan Lizama, Khalil Toves, and Jerome Fujihira also lend their time in helping train LTT members, sharing the things they've learned while working out in Guam.

Ogo said that membership is slowly increasing after each fight, but financial challenges prevent some from continuing their training. Currently, they don't have any sponsors and had to shoulder the airfare, food, and lodging costs when they joined the ROP 22: Rampage held last month.

"We don't have any spon-

Meanwhile, according to Vanuatu newspaper reports, some 11,000 residents are being evacuated to neighboring islands after the Manaro Voui volcano emitted lava bombs. Water sources on the island have also been contaminated due to the lava flows and a major eruption is looming so the national government aims to evacuate all residents by Oct. 6. An Australian naval ship has been sent to the island to help in the evacuation efforts.

sors and no one actually helped us. We're thankful to [TrenchTech promoter] Cuki Alvarez for providing us with transportation when we get to Saipan. We would greatly appreciate any help," said Ogo.

Three LTT warriors saw action in last month's ROP on Saipan and they went 1-2 against their opponents from Team Tinian. John Mendiola let loose a flurry of punches from a successful mount to win by technical knockout against Juschery Castro at the 1:37 mark of the opening round. That victory somehow eased the pain of consecutive losses by L.D. Ogo, who bowed to Perry Mundo by split decision, and A.J. Barcinas' setback against Austin John King by rear-naked choke at the 1:44 of the first round.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES	
MLB STANDINGS	
East Division	NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division
x-Boston 93 69 .574 —	x-Washington 97 65 .599 —
y-New York 91 71 .562 2	Miami 77 85 .475 20
Tampa Bay 80 82 .494 13	Atlanta 72 90 .444 25
Toronto 76 86 .469 17	New York 70 92 .432 27
Baltimore 75 87 .463 18	Philadelphia 66 96 .407 31
Central Division	Central Division
x-Cleveland 102 60 .630 —	x-Chicago 92 70 .568 —
y-Minnesota 85 77 .525 17	Milwaukee 86 76 .531 6
Kansas City 80 82 .494 22	St. Louis 83 79 .512 9
Chicago 67 95 .414 35	Pittsburgh 75 87 .463 17
Detroit 65 98 .399 37½	Cincinnati 68 94 .420 24
West Division	West Division
x-Houston 101 61 .623 —	x-Los Angeles 104 58 .642 —
Los Angeles 80 82 .494 21	y-Arizona 93 69 .574 11
Seattle 78 84 .481 23	y-Colorado 87 75 .537 17
Texas 78 84 .481 23	San Diego 71 91 .438 33
Oakland 75 87 .463 26	San Francisco 64 98 .395 40
	x-clinched division
	y-clinched wild card
NFL STANDINGS	
AMERICAN CONFERENCE East	NATIONAL CONFERENCE East
W L T Pct PF PA	Philadelphia 3 1 0 .750 103 92
Buffalo 3 1 0 .750 73 54	Washington 2 1 0 .667 71 60
N.Y. Jets 2 2 0 .500 75 92	Dallas 2 2 0 .500 94 97
New England 2 2 0 .500 129 128	N.Y. Giants 0 4 0 .000 60 95
Miami 1 2 0 .333 25 57	
South	South
Jacksonville 2 2 0 .500 109 74	Atlanta 3 1 0 .750 104 89
Houston 2 2 0 .500 110 88	Carolina 3 1 0 .750 78 70
Tennessee 2 2 0 .500 100 126	Tampa Bay 2 1 0 .667 71 64
Indianapolis 1 3 0 .250 71 136	New Orleans 2 2 0 .500 93 78
North	North
Pittsburgh 3 1 0 .750 90 59	Detroit 3 1 0 .750 99 70
Baltimore 2 2 0 .500 60 80	Green Bay 3 1 0 .750 102 81
Cincinnati 1 3 0 .250 64 67	Minnesota 2 2 0 .500 94 76
Cleveland 0 4 0 .000 63 107	Chicago 1 3 0 .250 61 104
West	West
Kansas City 3 0 0 1.000 93 57	L.A. Rams 3 1 0 .750 142 105
Denver 3 1 0 .750 98 74	Seattle 2 2 0 .500 94 77
Oakland 2 2 0 .500 91 79	Arizona 2 2 0 .500 74 91
L.A. Chargers 0 4 0 .000 72 93	San Francisco 0 4 0 .000 66 94
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS	

PAIR

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at the 1:44 mark of the first round, his determination and passion sparked an interest in the sport, thus giving birth to Luta Top Team.

Ogo said they wanted a name that would stand out and highlight the island where they come from. "We have that island fighting warrior spirit and we're here to stay. We started with nothing, just a pair of MMA gloves and each other."

LTT currently has nine to 10 people actively training under Ogo, who shares the MMA and Muay Thai skills he learned while he was in San Diego, California to his students. Colin Duenas also helps out in teaching LTT members jiu-jitsu techniques

"I used my experience from

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The fall season of the M-League will welcome a new team in Okadaya.

Okadaya, which will compete in Division A, will be bannered by the core of the Shirley's Football Club-1 that topped Di-

Okadaya joins Division A of M-League

vision B of M-League's spring season. The squad is led by captain Shunsuke Katagiri and Okadaya's jersey is sponsored by Livin' Color, a printing company located in San Antonio. Livin' Color president Kosuke



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Livin' Color's Masao Takakura, standing third left, and Kosuke Tomokiyo, standing fourth left, join Okadaya players for a group photo after the squad's scrimmage at the Koblerville Elementary School Field last Sunday.

Ali'i Blue Haus caging resumes tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Action in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League will resume tomorrow as repair works at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium were completed last week.

League commissioner Sam Fernandez said the broken tiles of the flooring of the gym had been fixed last Wednesday, making the facility safe for play. He added that they could have returned to play last weekend, but decided to postpone their matches for a few more days to allow the court more time to dry up. Tiles at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium peeled off, causing delays in the first two weeks of the league. The last time Ali'i Blue Haus caging had its matches there was on Sept. 23.

Tomorrow, two games will be played with the Green Archers taking on MP Light at 6pm and Black Mamba battling Spigen in the second tiff at 7:30pm. For the weekend games, the league will have a triple-header this



Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, Silencer will duel the Green Archers in the first

match at 5:30pm, while Batang Bear Brand will collide with White Haus in the second game at 7pm, and Tropang Ridhorns will face Gold Ballers in the night-cap at 8:30pm. For the Sunday curtain-raiser, it will be Team Sawi versus Spigen at 5pm, while at 6:30pm, Tropang Ridhorns will challenge MP Light, and Green Minded will square off against Black Mamba in the third match at 8pm.

Tropang Ridhorns and Batang Bear Brand are tied for the early lead in the 12-team field after holding similar 2-0 records. Spigen, Silencer, and Green Minded are also in a deadlock for the No. 2 spot with their identical 2-1 marks. Black Mamba is at third place with its 1-0 slate, and was followed by Gold Ballers (1-1), White Haus (1-2), Team Sawi (0-1), Vendetta (0-2), Green Archers (0-2), and MP Light (0-2).

Meanwhile, the Sept. 27 and 30, and Oct. 1 games will be rescheduled on a later date.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Batang Bear Brand's Erlan Lansang, right, leans in for a jumper against Vendetta's Jun Estolas during the opening game in the Ali'i Blue Haus caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium early last month. The league called off its games last week due to the unplayable court, but will resume play tomorrow.

Tomokiyo and vice president Masao Takakura presented the jerseys to Okadaya players after a scrimmage against other M-League teams at the Koblerville Elementary School Field last Sunday.

"Okadaya (restaurant) owners are close to our hearts that's why we decided to support them in their participation in the M-League. I am also a fan of football and would like to help teams playing the sport

here," Tomokiyo said.

"We wish the team all the best as they go out on the pitch and compete. I hope they enjoy playing with each other and challenging other good teams in the M-League," Takakura added.

Katagiri, who were joined in the Sunday presentation by teammates Panapa Peteru, Don Cabrera, and Kevin McCale, thanked Livin' Color and Okadaya for supporting them.

"We appreciate their assistance to our team and we hope they will continue to support us. We will do out very best in every game this season," Katagiri said.

Meanwhile, besides Okadaya, other teams that have already confirmed their participation in Division A are TanHoldings, Sun Palace, Paire, and Kanoa. In Division B, the confirmed teams are Shirley's FC, Matansa,

and Korean Football Association on Saipan. Organizers are still waiting for the final decision of MP United, the CNMI Women's National Team, the CNMI Boys U16 National Team, and the CNMI Boys 13 to 14 National Pool.

League officials and representatives of the participating teams met last Sunday to discuss details of the opening of the fall season, which is likely to kick off this month.

TRAC reiterates support to CCA

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI has renewed its commitment to the Commonwealth Cancer Association by helping the latter in the staging of the 2017 Bike and Run for Cure Prostrate and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Over 150 joined the race, run and bike combined. Both races started at 6am after a moment of silence that was made even somber with participants and organizers holding lit candles in memory of those who succumbed to cancer.

The five-kilometer run leg began at the AMP parking lot and participants headed toward the Gov. Eloy Inos Peace Park. The bike portion, which had a distance of 40K, also started in front of the AMP Visitors Center with riders making a turn at Quartermaster before heading to Banzai Cliff and back.

The race was not timed, but Kosuke Sato was the first to cross the finish line in the run leg, while youth cyclist Wynne Brillo completed the bike portion of the event ahead of the pack.

CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta said the weekend event was part of their campaign in raising awareness on prostate and childhood cancer.

"This event is a culmination of our program in raising awareness in these two types of cancers. TRAC has been a great partner in helping us in raising awareness through running, cycling, and having a healthy lifestyle as a whole,"

said Babauta.

"October will be another busy month for us at the CCA since we're going to commemorate the fallen firefighters. The proclamation will be in cooperation with the Department of Defense and the Emergency Management Services."

Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam and CNMI board member Kanae Quinn was among those that chose to participate

in the bike portion joining her husband Russ, and a host of veteran and weekend riders.

"Make-A-Wish has also supported the CCA in the past. We also have cancer patients and survivors as recipients," Quinn said.

She reminded the public about a Make-A-Wish fundraising Wish Night event (silent auction) on Nov. 3 at Giovanni's at the Hyatt Regency-Saipan. Tickets at the sit-down dinner are sold for \$100.



JON PEREZ

Jennifer Mitchell, right, jumps as she crosses the finish line with Chelsea Laconga during last Saturday's Bike and Run for Cure Prostrate and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month at the American Memorial Park.



Astros beat
Red Sox in AL
division series
preview
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ol'Aces reign supreme in 3x3

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Jack Lizama, right, stretches for a layup against Alpha Males' Antonio Borja during their semis game in the men's division of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces won the all-Saipan finale in the men's open division of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 after routing Almost, 21-6, last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces, which ruled the Saipan leg of the tournament to advance to the final stage of the competition, leaned on their outstanding perimeter shooting to east



past Almost in the 10-minute title match. Dan Barcinas, Preston Basa, and Douglas Schmidt were on target, while big man Jack Lizama also hit a couple of mid-range

jumpers for a convincing win against Almost, which made it to the semifinals of the Saipan leg held last month.

Almost then marched into the championship game after pulling off an upset over Paki 3's of former CNMI National Team member Peter Camacho. Almost eked out a 15-11 victory in the second semis pairing, thanks to the 9 points of Leroy Rangamar. Carl Steven Aldan added 5 markers, while Benwachi Taisacan scored the other point. Camacho was held to a basket in

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White: No threat to Pacific Mini Games



VANUATU 2017 PHOTO

2017 Pacific Mini Games' mascots Nasi and Em Pawa are invited to visit students and teachers of Fresh Water Bilingual School in Vanuatu late last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI athletes competing in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu should not panic in the face of a looming major eruption of a volcano on Ambae Island.

"Many of you have read about the eruption of a volcano on Ambae Island in Vanuatu. Certainly, our thoughts are with the people of that island, and of Vanuatu as a whole, and we hope that any damage, physical or otherwise, will be minimal," Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White said in an email circulated to NMSA members.

"However, I wanted to as-

sure our sporting community, particularly those of us who are going to attend the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in December that the eruption apparently does not pose a threat to Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu and the site of the Games," White added.

The NMSA head said Ambae is around 263 kilometer (about 165 miles) north of Port Vila. Pagan is about 332 kilometer north of Saipan and when it erupted, Saipan experienced ash from the eruption, but the effects were temporary.

"NMSA will continue to keep a close watch on the situation. I am sure that the Organizing Committee and the Pa-

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Pair of MMA gloves sparks LTT

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Keith Ogo was busy training with some of his friends for an upcoming fight against Guam Muay Thai's Eric Gatman three years ago in Rites of Passage 17: Road to Glory—his debut in mixed martial arts.

Although he lost by technical knockout via punches

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JON PEREZ

Luta Top Team's L.D. Ogo, left, sizes up his opponent Perry Mundo of Team Tinian in one of the undercard fights in last month's Rites of Passage 22: Rampage held at the Marianas Business Plaza.